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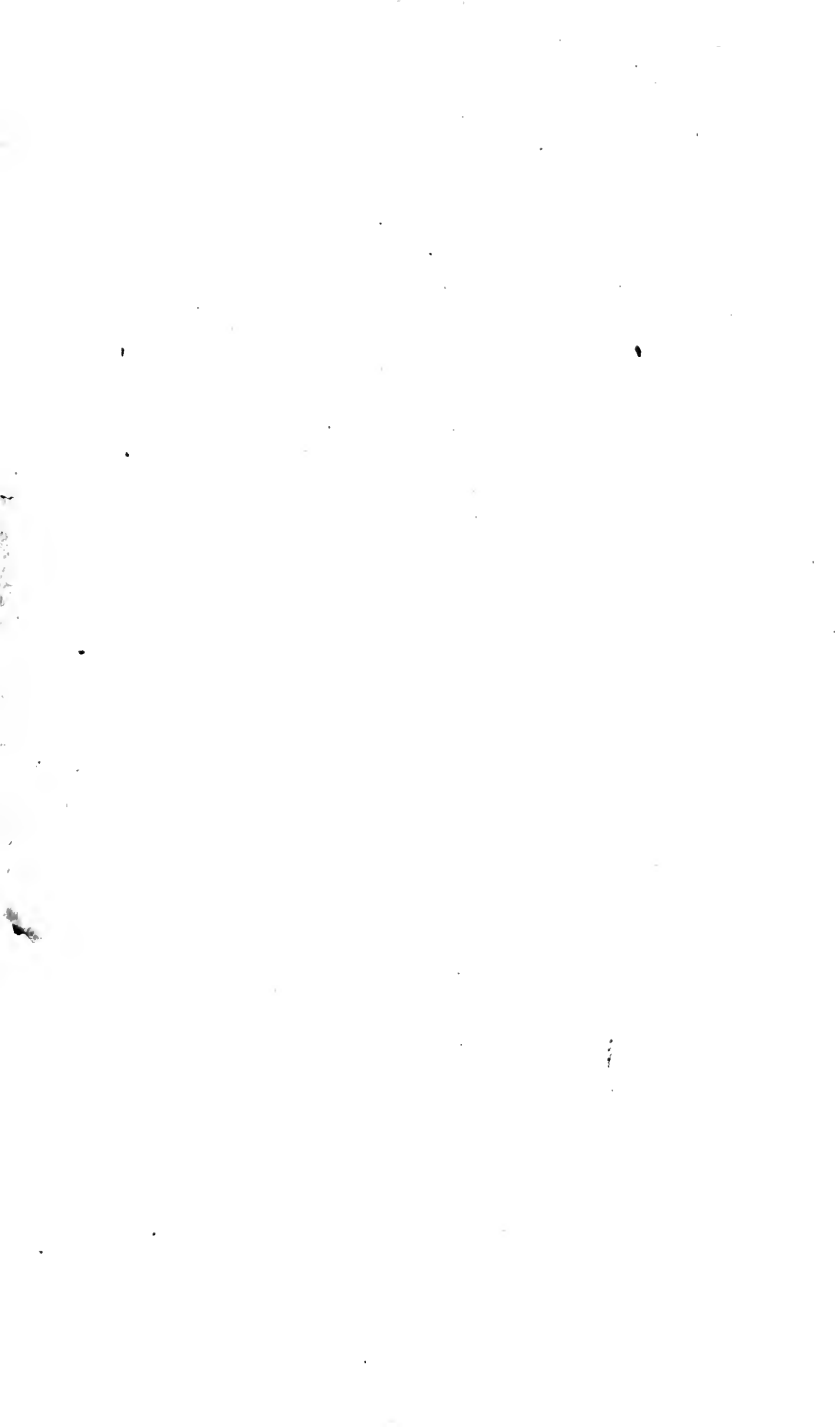
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THE
Scripture-Doctrine
OF
ORIGINAL SIN

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EXAMINATION.

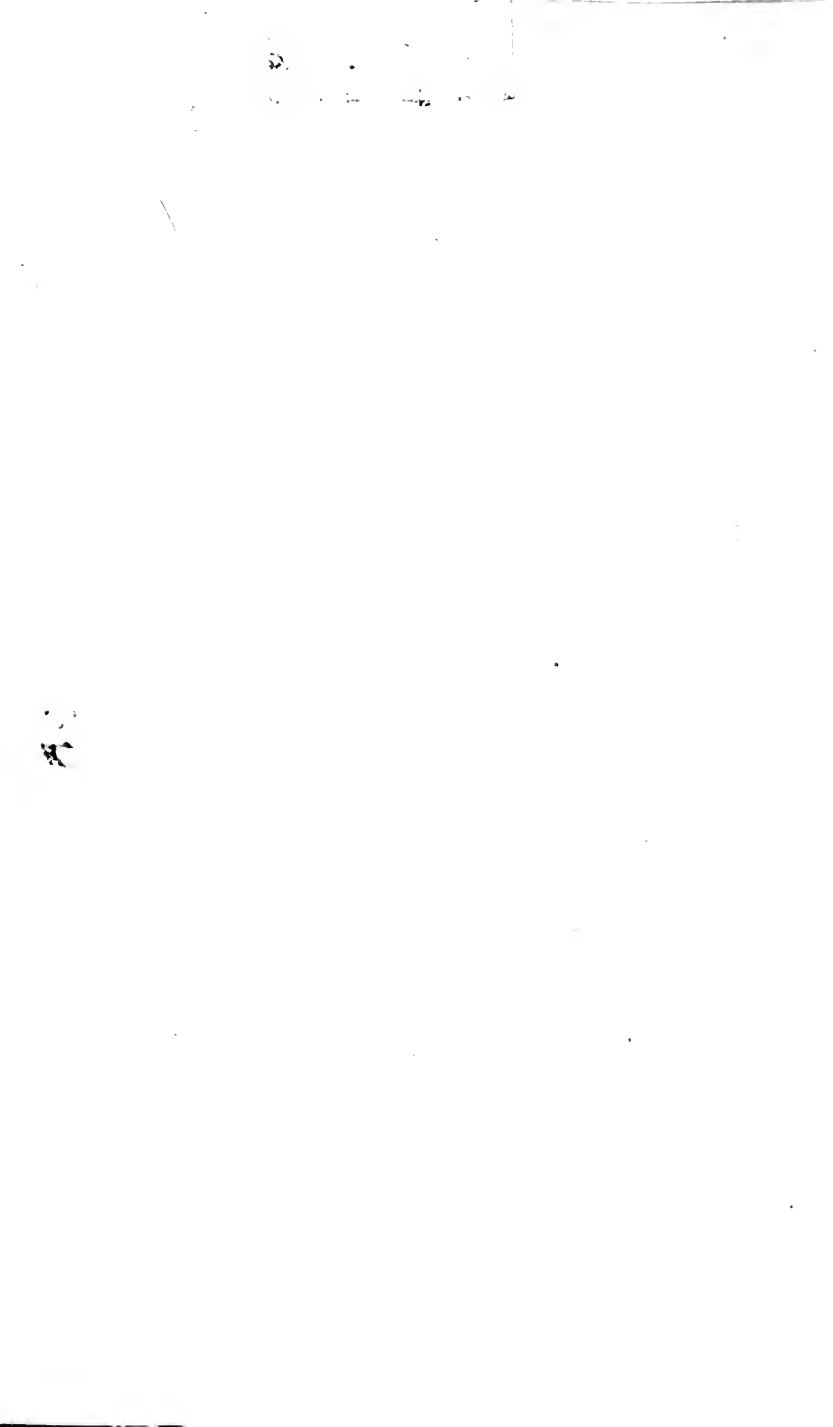
IN THREE PARTS.

By *JOHN TAYLOR.* *Nov. D.D. 1786.*



L O N D O N,

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M D C C X L.





THE
P R E F A C E.

READER,



Warrant nothing of my own in the following Inquiries: I undertake to make nothing good. At present, I see nothing in them that is false; but that is no Proof that every thing is true. I have made the Revelation of God alone the Rule of my Judgment, not any Schemes or Opinions of Men: But that I have every where fully and infallibly delivered the Sense of Revelation I maintain not. I have honestly endeavoured to set Things in a just Light; but under the Weakness and

Imperfections of a Man. This I advertise you of, that in reading you may freely use your own Judgment without any Regard to mine; that you may admit Truth upon its own Evidence; and that, if you are by a blind, implicit Faith in what I say, led into any Error, you yourself may be accountable for it. ---I add a hearty Wish, That we may all so seriously, closely, impartially, peaceably, and in the Spirit of Love, study the Scriptures, that our Knowledge of the Principles of Christianity being just, our Faith may be strong, our Hope stedfast, our Comfort solid, and that the Light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the Image of God, shining into our Minds, may give us a Conformity to the Son of God in all Virtue, in Meekness, Humility, and brotherly Kindness, that so an Entrance may be ministred unto us abundantly into his everlasting Kingdom. Amen.

THE



THE
Scripture-Doctrine
OF
ORIGINAL SIN
PROPOSED TO
Free and Candid EXAMINATION.

PART I.

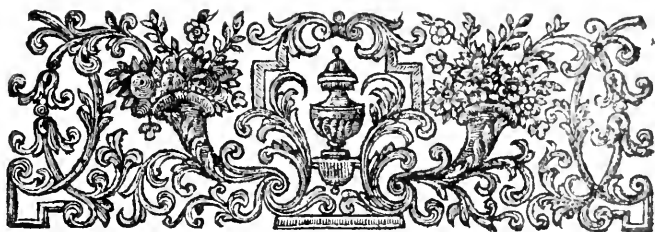
Wherein *all* those Places of Scripture, which do *expressly* speak of the Consequences of the *first Transgression*, are distinctly considered, and (as far as the Author was able) fully and familiarly explained, that the meanest Capacity may form a true Judgment upon this important Article of Revelation.

ACTS xvii. II. *These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily,*
WHETHER THOSE THINGS WERE SO.



E R R A T A.

PAGE 22. lin. 7. *take away the Comma after Certainly.*
P. 29. l. 9. *in the Note, for if arguing, read, as he is*
arguing. P. 53. *in the Note, l. 9. תשמנה.* P. 59. l. 6.
in the Note, after I presume cannot be, add, by any three
single Words. P. 74. l. 7. *his.* P. 78. l. 27. *put a Period*
after Happinefs. l. 29. *put a Comma after Globe.* l. 32.
dispose. P. 110. l. 20. *gives.* P. 133. l. 10. *Similiter*
in, &c. and l. 27. Matrem enim, &c. those two Sentences
should be in the Italick Character. l. 24. *Idololatrarum.*
P. 135. l. 8. *for same Import, read like Import.* P. 139.
l. 15. *leading.* P. 154. l. 22. *for must that be, read must*
it be. P. 172. l. 18, 19. *resolving.* P. 201. l. 8. *put a*
Period after No. l. 28. ΕΓΩ. P. 226. l. 23. *opened to us.*
P. 232. l. 5. *For if by one man's,* P. 248. l. 19. *In-*
eptitude.



T H E
Scripture-Doctrine
O F
O R I G I N A L S I N

PROPOSED TO
Free and Candid EXAMINATION.

P A R T I.



YOU desire, my dear Friend, to be satisfied about the Article of *Original Sin*. As I am a Minister of the Gospel, it is my Duty to do all I can to set you right in a Matter relating to the Principles of Religion; and therefore I will unfold to you the TRUTH, so far as I am able, plainly, sincerely, and without Reserve; in confidence that you, on your Part,
B love

love the TRUTH, and are disposed to a diligent and impartial Inquiry after it.

· ABOVE all things, TRUTH should engage our most serious and upright Regards. We should esteem it the highest Point of Duty to be always open to the Evidence which discovers TRUTH; and always free and ready, setting aside every Bias of Prejudice and temporal Interest, to embrace it, when discover'd. The TRUTH, as it cannot be wrong in it self, cannot lead us to any thing that is wrong. The TRUTH is the Rule which God himself follows, and which his almighty Power will for ever vindicate. *To this end* our blessed LORD *was born, and for this Cause he came into the World, that he might bear Witness to the TRUTH,* John xviii. 37. The TRUTH is that glorious Sun, which directs and illustrates all our Actions, rendering them pleasing to God, and comfortable to ourselves; nor can we be Sinners, or wretched, but only just so far as we despise or neglect the TRUTH.

ALL TRUTH necessary to Salvation is revealed in the Holy SCRIPTURES; and the SCRIPTURES, not the Opinions of Men, not of *learned Men*, no, not of *good Men*, no, not of many *learned and good Men*, are the Rule of our Faith. Men of Knowledge and Integrity may indeed be useful to us, as In-

structors, to open the Sense of God's Word : But it is the Word and Revelation of God alone upon which my Faith is to be founded. And as for human Wisdom and Knowledge, I ought to value it, in religious Matters, just so much, and so far only, as it serves to unfold the Mind and Meaning of God in the Scriptures ; in the interpreting of which, we ought not to admit any thing contradictory to the common Sense and Understanding of Mankind. For the Scriptures can be no Rule to us, if the Understanding God hath given us is not a Rule in judging of their Sense, and Meaning. Nothing ought to pass for Divine Revelation which is inconsistent with any of the known Perfections of the Divine Nature. Difficult Places are to be explained by those that are easy to be understood. We must not allow ourselves to *feign* any thing ; but must attend to the true, strict and proper Sense of every Place, without daring to add or diminish by our own Imaginations : and whatever we find is plainly added, or diminished, by human Interpretations or Schemes, we ought peremptorily to reject as dangerous Innovation. Lastly, we should not content ourselves with Scraps, and single Sentences, which in Sound may seem to mean one Thing, but really have, taken with what goes before, and what follows after, a quite different Signification. This is a very fallacious Way of proving Things from Scripture ;

and, for my own Part, I cannot satisfy myself in grounding Articles of Faith upon it.

MY Method (you must judge whether it be right) in searching the Scriptures is, to take the whole before me ; to find out all the Places where any Point of Faith is spoken of, or seems to be spoken of ; to study those Places over singly and separately, judging from what goes before and follows after, what is the true Scope and Meaning of every Text ; and then I compare them all together, and from such a View of all that I can find in the Word of God, I form my Sentiments concerning the Point inquired after.

AND truly I cannot see what any one can possibly do more (excepting fervent Prayer to the Father of Lights,) to settle his Faith and Conscience upon a true Scripture Bottom.

YOU want to be satisfied about *Original Sin* : that is, you would know, How far we, the Posterity of *Adam*, are involved in the Consequences of his first Transgression.

COME then, my dear Friend, let me lead you by the Hand into the most fruitful and pleasant Garden of God, his Holy Word. I have laid out a good deal of Study upon it, and, with some Care, have observed the several Plants which grow therein ; and, with

a particular Eye to the Point before us, the *Consequences of the first Transgression* : Which I find are spoken of *certainly* and *plainly* but five times in the whole Bible ; namely, twice in the Old, and thrice in the New Testament. Many other Places indeed are quoted by Divines, as relating to this Affair, but they are apparently doubtful; no Mention being made in them of *Adam*, or any Effects that his Sin hath upon us. However, the right way of proceeding is, to consider and examine first those Places where the Consequences and Effects of *Adam's* Sin are *plainly* and *certainly* spoken of ; and then we shall be better able to judge of the *doubtful* and *uncertain* Places, to which we shall next turn our Thoughts.

I FIND NO more than five Places in all the Bible where the Consequences of the first Sin are *certainly* spoken of : The first is, *Gen. ii. 17.* The second is, *Gen. iii.* from the 7th verse to the end of the Chapter. The third Place is, in *Rom. v. 12,* to the 20th verse. The fourth Place is, in *1 Cor. xv. 21, 22.* The fifth and last Place is, *1 Tim. ii. 14.*

THE Bible is open to every body, and if any Man can produce more than these five Places where the Consequences of the first Transgression are *plainly* and *certainly* spoken of, it will be easy for every body to see, and I shall be very ready to own, I am mistaken.

Of the Consequences of the first Transgression, there is not one *certain* Word spoken from the third Chapter of *Genesis* to the last of *Malachi* in the Old Testament. *David*, *Solomon*, and the *Prophets* say nothing *certain* about them. Our Saviour saith not ONE WORD of them in any of his Doctrines and Instructions, nor any of the Apostles and Writers of the New Testament in their Sermons and Epistles, except the Apostle *Paul*, and he but thrice.

OUR next Business therefore is to examine these Places singly and separately, and then to compare them together, and see what Conclusion we can fairly draw from them. And pray do not forget, that I am only helping you as well as I can. I impose nothing upon your Faith and Conscience. I pretend not to judge for you ; you must judge freely for yourself : Least of all do I pretend to be infallible. Possibly I may be mistaken : But if I am, sure I am, it is through Defect, not of Integrity, but of Understanding ; and therefore I claim your Candour and Charity as a due Debt, where you think I am in an Error.

THE first of the forementioned Places is

GENESIS, Chap. II.

Ver. 17. *But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it : for in*
the

the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die.

GOD having created Man after his own Image, a living Soul, endowed with the Powers of Reason, in order to form in him *all* the Habits of Virtue, besides the Obligations resulting from the NATURES and RELATIONS of THINGS, was pleased, in a Command of pure *Authority*, to exercise his Obedience to HIMSELF, his MAKER, by forbidding the Use of one Tree in the Garden, called *the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil*. The Threatening, in Case of Transgression, was, *that he should surely die*. *Death* was to be the Consequence of his Disobedience. DEATH is the losing of LIFE. DEATH is opposed to LIFE; and must be understood according to the Nature of that *Life* to which it is opposed. Now the *Death* here threatened can, with any *Certainty*, be opposed only to the *Life* God gave *Adam* when he created him, *ver. 7*. Any thing besides this must be pure Conjecture, without a solid Foundation. For no other *Life* is spoken of before, to which *Death* can be opposed: Nor can we conceive, from any thing in the History, how *Adam* could understand it of the Loss of any other Life than that which he had newly received. In this Light, the Sense of the Threatening will stand thus: *Thou shalt surely die*; as if he had said, “ I have

“ formed thee of the Dust of the Ground,
 “ and breathed into thy Nostrils the Breath
 “ of Life ; and thus thou art become a living
 “ Soul. But if thou eatest of the forbidden
 “ Tree, thou shalt cease to be a living Soul :
 “ For I will take from thee the Breath of
 “ Life, and thou shalt return unto the Dust
 “ of which I formed thee.” Less than this,
 I think, the Threatening cannot signify ; and
 I do not see how any thing more can be
 made of it. However, if this appear doubtful,
 let us suspend our Assent till we see how this
 Affair turneth out in the other Places.

R E F L E C T I O N S.

“ O B S E R V E, here is not one Word re-
 “ lating to *Adam's* Posterity. Though it
 “ must be true, that if *Adam* was to have
 “ died immediately upon his Transgression ;
 “ if his Life was to have been extinguished
 “ in the very Day he sinned, then of course
 “ all his Posterity must have been extinct
 “ with him : For from the dead Bodies of
 “ *Adam* and *Eve*, they could not have pro-
 “ ceeded in the ordinary Course of Genera-
 “ tion.”

W E L L, *Adam* and *Eve* did transgress the
 Law of their Trial ; and the immediate Con-
 sequences of their Transgression are related

G E N E-

G E N E S I S, Chap. III.

Ver. 7. *And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked : and they sewed fig-leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*

8. *And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the Garden in the cool of the day : And Adam and his Wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.*

9. *And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou ?*

10. *And he said, I heard thy voice in the Garden : and I was afraid because I was naked ; and I hid myself.*

11. *And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked ? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee, that thou shouldest not eat ?*

12. *And the man said, The woman, whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.*

13. *And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done ? And the woman said, the Serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.*

14. *And the LORD God said unto the Serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattel, and above every beast of the field :*

field : upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life.

15. *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed, and her seed : it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

16. *Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception ; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children : and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*

17. *And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it : cursed is the ground for thy sake : in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.*

18. *Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee : and thou shalt eat the herb of the field.*

19. *In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground ; for out of it wast thou taken : for dust thou art, and to dust shalt thou return.*

20. *And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.*

21. *Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.*

22. *And the LORD God said, Behold the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil. And now lest he put forth his hand, and take*

take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever :

23. *Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground, from whence he was taken.*

24. *So he drove out the man : and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden, cherubims, and a flaming sword, which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

IN this Paragraph we have some Consequences of our first Parents Sin *before* God judged them ; some appointed by his *judicial Act* and Sentence ; and some which happened *after* that Sentence was pronounced.

I. IMMEDIATELY upon their Transgression they were seized with Shame and Fear, the common Effects of Guilt.

THEIR Shame is described, *ver. 7. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked : and they sewed fig-leaves together, and made themselves aprons.* In the last Verse of the foregoing Chapter it is said, *and they were both naked, the man and his wife, and they were not ashamed.* But now, after they had sinned, they were ashamed of their Nakedness, and contrived Coverings for it. But the Reason why they were thus ashamed is not given. Only, as they were naked when they were *not* ashamed, as well

as

as when they were *ashamed*, the Reason of their being ashamed must not, I think, be taken from any Alteration in their Bodies *, but from the Opinion they had of themselves. *The Eyes of them both were opened*; they thought differently of themselves from what they had done before: But for what Reason, or from what Cause, besides a Sense of Guilt, no Man can determine. Guilt will always be attended with Shame; and a State of Guilt is often in Scripture expressed by being *naked*. Exod. xxxii. 25. *And when Moses saw that the people were naked, for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame amongst their enemies.* Isai. xlvii. 3. *Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance.* Rev. xvi. 15. *Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, i. e. the Habits of his Mind, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*

THEIR *Fear* is described, ver. 8. *And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking.—*

* Some learned Men think they were originally clothed with a luminous and glorious Covering, which adhered to their whole Body; and that after they had sinned, they were, by the immediate Act of God, stripped of this Badge of his Favour and their Innocency. But this Opinion doth not affect the Point under Consideration: Since, if their Bodies were thus disgraced, it relateth only to their outward Form, and Appearance, and infers no Change or Diminution of the Powers of their Minds,

And

And Adam and his Wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. Here we learn, that whereas the LORD God had appeared unto them, and conversed with them, and they had no disquieting Fear of him, while they were innocent ; now they had sinned, they were afraid to stand before their God and Judge, whose Law they had transgressed.

R E F L E C T I O N S.

“ HERE observe, that for any thing that
“ appears in the Text, their Sin, the evil
“ Action they committed, was personal. Set-
“ ting aside the Tempter, no body com-
“ mitted that sinful Act of Disobedience but
“ they themselves ; first, *Eve*, and then
“ *Adam*, in their own Persons ; for there
“ was not a Man or Woman in the World
“ besides themselves. This is manifest. And
“ as the evil Action they committed was per-
“ sonal, done only by them ; so also must
“ the real Guilt be personal, and belong only
“ to themselves : that is, no other could, in
“ the Eye of Justice and Equity, be blame-
“ able and punishable for that Transgression,
“ which was their own Act and Deed, and
“ not the Act and Deed of any other Man
“ or Woman in the World. This also must
“ be true, or we cannot understand how
“ any

“ any thing can be true, or just, or equitable.
 “ table.

“ AGAIN, the Sense of Guilt, the Shame
 “ and Fear, with which their Consciences
 “ were touched, must also be personal ; must
 “ belong to them only, and could not,
 “ in the Nature of Things, belong to any
 “ other Persons whatsoever. Because as no
 “ other but they two only were guilty of
 “ the first Sin, so no other but they two
 “ could have a Consciousness of it as their
 “ Sin ; no other could be sorry, or ashamed,
 “ or dread the Wrath of God for a Thing
 “ in which they had no Hand, which was
 “ done before they had a Being, and which
 “ therefore they could no ways possibly help.
 “ This also must be true, otherwise one Man’s
 “ Consciousness, and Conscience of Guilt,
 “ must be transferred to another Man, and
 “ be made his Consciousness and Guilt :
 “ That is to say, one Man must be supposed
 “ to think and believe himself to be another
 “ Man. Which, if ever it be done, must
 “ be the Act and Deed of God, changing
 “ his Mind, and making him conceit, that
 “ he is not himself, but another Person.
 “ But to charge such Illusion and Deceit
 “ upon God is highly prophane and impious ;
 “ and supposes that he torments his Crea-
 “ tures with Guilt, Shame and Fear, which
 “ do

Part I. Original Sin *examined.* 15
“ do not in Justice belong to them, but are
“ purely imaginary.”

THE Guilt *Adam* contracted was attended with Shame and Fear. These were the Consequences of his Transgression antecedent to God's judging him.

II. THE Consequences judicially appointed by the Sentence of God are to be found either in the Sentence pronounced upon the *Serpent*, or the *Woman*, or the *Man*.

I. THE SERPENT is cursed, *ver.* 14, 15. Which so far as it relateth to the Serpent, (whether the natural Serpent, or the Devil, the wicked Spirit, which used the Serpent as his Instrument in tempting our first Parents) hath nothing to do with the Point we are now upon.

BUT whereas it is said, *ver.* 15. *I will put enmity between thee, [O Serpent,] and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel;* this evidently relateth to the Woman's Posterity: And I incline to think, the *Messiah*, the most eminent Seed of the Woman, is pointed at. But how must we understand this of the *Messiah*? According to the Text, God saith he would put Enmity between the Devil and him, and that he should bruise the Devil's

Devil's Head, and the Devil should bruise his Heel. God would put Enmity between the Devil and him, that is to say, they should be Opposites and Antagonists to one another ; and that the *Messiah* should quite crush the *Head*, that is, the Power and Sovereignty of the Devil : And that the Devil, on the other hand, should do him some slight Hurt, signified by bruising or biting his Heel, which should not affect his Head, or any principal Part of his Body.

TAKING this therefore for the Sense, it implies, 1. That the Race of Mankind should be continued. 2. That the Devil should be permitted to tempt them, even as he was permitted to tempt our first Parents, tho' not exactly in the same way. 3. That God, as a new Act of Grace to Man, would appoint his only-begotten Son as an Opposite or Antagonist to Satan, to his Works and Agents, to enlighten and help Mankind in their spiritual Conflicts, to maintain a Kingdom in the World opposite to the Kingdom of Darkness, by various Teachings and Dispensations from Age to Age, till he should come in the Flesh, be born of a Woman, and by his Doctrine, Example, Obedience, and Death, give the last Stroke, by way of moral Means, to the Power and Works of the Devil. This, I presume, is the utmost that can be made of this Place. *Christ*, in Favour of Man, now seduced,

seduced, and liable to be hereafter seduced by the Devil, is made an Enemy to that Enemy; and should at length, though not without suffering, bruise his Head, and totally crush his Kingdom and Power.

2. SENTENCE is past upon the WOMAN, *ver.* 16. which is easy to be understood; namely, that she should bring forth Children with more Pain and Hazard than otherwise she would have done; and moreover, be in greater Subjection to the Will and Controul of her Husband. And this likewise may serve as a sufficient Comment upon the last of the five above-mentioned Places; namely, *1 Tim.* ii. 14. *And Adam was not [first] deceived, but the Woman being deceived, was in the transgression:* Which is given only as a Reason why the Woman ought *not to teach, or usurp Authority over the Man, but to be in Silence:* See *ver.* 11, 12.

3. LASTLY, The Sentence upon the MAN, *ver.* 17, 18, 19. first affects the Earth, upon which he was to subsist. The Ground should be encumbered with many noxious Weeds, and the Tillage of it more toilsome than before, which would oblige the Man to procure a Sustenance by hard Labour, till he should die, and drop into the Ground from whence he was taken. Thus *Death* entered by *Sin* into the World, and Man became

C mortal

mortal by transgressing God's Law, according to the Threatening in the former Chapter.

III. AFTER Sentence pronounced, these Things happened.

I. WHEREAS *Adam* had before called his Wife *Iska*, Woman, he now called her *Eve*, which signifieth *Life*, or *Life-giving*; probably for Joy that Mankind were to be propagated from her, when he expected nothing but immediate Death in Consequence of his Transgression.

2. THE Labour to which they were condemned, and probably the weaker Condition of their Bodies, requiring they should be no longer naked, *the LORD God*, in Love and Tenderneſs, *made them coats of skin, and clothed them.*

3. THE *LORD God* sent the Man out of the garden to till the common and leſs fruitful ground, out of which he was taken. And being doomed to *Mortality*, it was alſo proper he ſhould be excluded from the *Tree of Life*. For that Tree can be conſidered, with any Shew of Truth, only as either a Pledge and Sign of *Immortality*; or, as an appointed Means of preventing the Decay of the human Frame, ſuppoſing *Adam* had continued obedient. Conſequently the Tree had relation only to

the Duration of his Being : and his Exclusion from it had relation to nothing but his being subjected to Death. Accordingly we find, when Immortality shall be restored, the Benefit of this Tree shall, in some Sense or other, be restored, *Rev.* xxii. 2.

R E F L E C T I O N S.

“ THIS is all that I can see, relating to
 “ the Affair before us, in this Place. Now
 “ observe, 1. A Curse is pronounced upon
 “ the Serpent, and upon the Ground : but
 “ no *Curse* upon the *Woman* and the *Man*.
 “ For although they are here manifestly sub-
 “ jected to Sorrow, Labour, and Death, yet
 “ these are not inflicted under the Notion
 “ of a Curse. The Spirit of God, it is ob-
 “ servable, wholly abstains from the Use of
 “ that Word, even with regard to their out-
 “ ward Condition ; and much more with re-
 “ gard to their Souls. Not one Word of a
 “ Curse upon their Souls, upon the Powers
 “ of their Minds, their Understanding and
 “ Reason. Not one Word of darkening or
 “ weakening their rational Powers ; not one
 “ Word of clogging those with any additional
 “ Difficulties. This is undeniable. 2. Ob-
 “ serve well : Here is not one Word, or the
 “ least Intimation, of any other Death, but
 “ that Diffolution, which all Mankind un-
 “ dergo

“ dergo when they cease to live in this
 “ World, whatever that Dissolution be. For
 “ to this Dissolution alone, the Words of the
 “ great Judge evidently restrain this Death.
 “ *Ver. 19. Till thou return unto the ground,*
 “ *for out of it wast thou taken : for dust thou*
 “ *art, and to dust thou shalt return.* This
 “ refers clearly to the Account of Man’s
 “ Creation. *Gen. ii. 7. And the LORD God*
 “ *formed man out of the dust of the ground, and*
 “ *breathed into his nostrils the breath of life ;*
 “ *and man became a living soul.* Thus Man
 “ was made. And the judicial Act of Con-
 “ demnation clearly implieth a taking him to
 “ pieces, or turning him again into the
 “ Ground from whence he was taken, de-
 “ prived of that Life which God had breathed
 “ into him. This also seems to me unde-
 “ niable ; and surely must be admitted, if
 “ the Scriptures are really any Means of true
 “ Knowledge, or a Rule of Faith. 3. Ob-
 “ serve, That we, their Posterity, are, in fact,
 “ subjected to the same Afflictions and Mor-
 “ tality here, by Sentence inflicted upon our
 “ first Parents. Concerning which Afflictions
 “ and Mortality we may truly affirm ; that
 “ tho’ they are occasioned by the Sin of our
 “ first Parents ; tho’ they were not inflicted
 “ till they transgressed, and so descend to us
 “ in Consequence of their Transgression ;
 “ yet they are not inflicted upon us as *Punish-*
 “ *ments* for their Sin : because *Punishment,*
 “ in

“ in it's true Nature, always connotes, or
 “ includes *Guilt* ; but *guilty* of their Sin we
 “ neither are, nor, in the Nature of Things,
 “ any ways possibly could be. We may
 “ *suffer* for their Sin, and actually do *suffer*
 “ for it ; but we are not *punished* for their
 “ Sin, because we are not *guilty* of it. Fur-
 “ ther, it is true, from the whole Current of
 “ Scripture, which represents Sufferings and
 “ Afflictions as Means of our spiritual Bene-
 “ fit, that though Afflictions and Death are
 “ the Consequences of *Adam's* Sin, yet they
 “ really are a *Benefit* to us, as they are a
 “ great Advantage to our Virtue, by mortify-
 “ fying our Lusts, and leading us to the Fear
 “ and Obedience of God, and the Desires of
 “ a better World. This standeth upon a
 “ solid Bottom. For it appeareth evident in
 “ our World, *That the Increase of natural*
 “ *Evil* (at least in some degrees) *is the less-*
 “ *ening of moral Evil.*”

THUS, my Friend, I have lead you through
 this Part of Scripture as plainly and clearly as
 I can, without concealing any thing to our
 present Purpose, without colouring or wrest-
 ing any thing.

WHAT we have hitherto found is this ;
 God threatened *Adam* with Death in case he
 sinned. *Adam* sinned and fell under *Guilt*,
Shame, and *Fear*. God graciously purposed

to continue his Race, to appoint his Son, the *Messiah*, to oppose the Kingdom of the Devil, now begun by the Sin of *Adam* ; but withal subjected the Man to Sorrow, Labour, and Death.

IN the Old Testament there is nothing more to be found *certainly* relating to the Consequences of *Adam's* first Transgression. The Places in the New Testament, which remain to be examined, are two ; the one not without Difficulties, the other easy and obvious. Which then do you think we should begin with ? Certainly that which is easy and obvious. Ever carry all the Light you can before you in such Inquiries, and you will see your Way more clearly through that which is dark and intricate.

THE easy and obvious Place is,

I CORINTH. Chap. XV.

Ver. 21. *For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.*

22. *For as in Adam all die †, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

Now it is plain beyond all Dispute,

I. THAT

† A like Expression see in *Eccles. xxv. 24.* *Of the woman came the beginning of sin, and through her we all die.*

1. THAT the Apostle in this Chapter is speaking of, proving and explaining the Resurrection, or *our being raised after we are dead*, and restored to Life again: That Resurrection, and Restauration to Life, without which they who are *fallen asleep in Christ are perished*, ver. 18. Without the Hope of which, Christians, suffering Christians, *have hope in this life only*, and so are of all men most miserable, ver. 19. And without which the Apostle expected no Advantage from all his severe Conflicts and Sufferings in the Body, ver. 32. He speaks manifestly of that Resurrection of Christians which is opposed to *sleeping in Christ*, or being dead in a state of Relation to Christ, ver. 18, 20. Of that Resurrection, of which *Christ's* rising from the Dead on the third Day, ver. 4. was the *First-fruits*, the Pledge and Pattern, ver. 20. Of that Fact and Event of the Resurrection which will happen at the *coming of Christ*, ver. 23. And which Fact or Event some in the *Corinthian* Church questioned or denied, ver. 12. It is this very Fact or Event, and *no other*, which the Apostle here affirms and demonstrateth.

2. IT is quite undeniable, That ALL, all Mankind, *die*, ALL are mortal, ALL lose their Life in *Adam*. From him our Mortality commenceth; *Death* was by him, ver. 21.

that is, I suppose, by, or in Consequence of his Conduct.

3. IT is equally clear and indisputable, That *by Christ came the resurrection of the dead*: That *in Christ ALL* that die in *Adam*, (that is to say, all Mankind) *are made alive*. All those who cease to live in this World are *in* and *by Christ* restored to Life, who otherwise *might* never have lived again, and, in fact, *would* never have lived again, had not God provided for their Revival or Return to Life at the Resurrection. This is very certain from the Apostle's express Affirmation, twice repeated in the clearest Language, to prevent Obscurity and Mistake. *As by man [Adam] came death, by man [Christ] came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam ALL die, even so in Christ shall ALL be made alive.* Which Words *directly affirm*, That a *Resurrection*, or being *made alive* again, is granted, assured, and executed by and in *CHRIST* alone: and *evidently suppose*, 1. That the Dead are not *made alive* till the *Resurrection*: for the *Resurrection of the dead*, and being *made alive*, are here Expressions of the same Signification. 2. That, had not a *Resurrection* been provided, we should *never* after Death have been *made alive*.

RE-

R E F L E C T I O N S.

“ FROM this Place we cannot conclude, that
 “ *any other Evil or Death* came upon Man-
 “ kind in Consequence of *Adam's* first Trans-
 “ gression, besides that *Death* from which
 “ Mankind shall be delivered at the *Resur-*
 “ *rection* ; whatever *that Death* be.”

THUS far we seem to have advanced upon good and solid Grounds. And the Truths we have found are these ; That by *Adam's* Sin, he and his Posterity were subjected to Sorrow, and Labour, and to that Death, or Loss of Life, which might never have been followed with a Resurrection or Revival, had not God in *Christ* provided that Mankind should be made alive again at the last Day. *As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

NOW we are come to the most difficult Place of Scripture, which speaks of this Point; namely,

R O M A N S, Chap. V.

Ver. 12. *Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin ; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*

13. *For until the law, sin was in the world : but sin is not imputed when there is no law.*

14. *Never-*

14. Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

15. But not as the offence so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one † many be dead; MUCH MORE the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto † many.

16. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift; for the judgment was by ONE unto condemnation; but the free gift is of MANY offences unto justification.

17. For if by one man's offence, death reigned by one, MUCH MORE they which receive the ABUNDANCE of grace, and of the gift of righteousness, shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

18. Therefore as by the offence of one, [Judgment came] upon all men to condemnation: even so by the righteousness of one [the free Gift came] upon all men unto justification of life.

19. For as by one man's disobedience † many were made sinners: so by the obedience of one shall † many be made righteous.

THE first thing we have to do, is to see if we can find any thing certain and evident in this seemingly obscure Paragraph, that we may carry as much Light as possible before us. And

I. No

† The Many; ὁ πολλοί, all Mankind,

I. No Man can deny, or doubt that the Apostle is here speaking of that DEATH which we all die, when this present Life is extinguished, and the Body returns to the Dust of the Earth. He speaks of that DEATH evidently which entered into the World by *Adam's Sin*; that DEATH which is common to *all Mankind*; which *passeth*, or *cometh*, upon *all Men*, good and bad, the righteous as well as the wicked, *ver. 12.* That DEATH which reigned from *Adam to Moses*, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of *Adam's transgression*, *ver. 14.* Of that DEATH, and of no other, he speaks in the 15th Verse; *For if by the transgression of one* * *many be DEAD.* And in the 17th Verse, *For if by one man's offence DEATH reigned by one.* He is still discoursing upon the same Subject, and therefore *evidently, clearly, and infallibly* means the same DEATH in all these Places. And of this pray be satisfied, by a careful Perusal of the whole Passage, before you go any further.

II. BY *Judgment to Condemnation*, or a judicial Act of Condemnation, *ver. 16, 18.* it appeareth evidently to me, he means the being adjudged to the fore-mentioned DEATH. He means the Sentence of DEATH, of a
general

* The Many; *οι πολλοι*, all Mankind.

general Mortality, pronounced upon Mankind in consequence of *Adam's* first Transgression. [Here I beg you would keep your Eye strictly upon the Text as it lieth in the Bible, otherwise I fear you will not be able to keep pace with the Argument.] For observe, when he saith in the 16th Verse, *and not as by one that sinned, so is the gift; for the judgment was by one to condemnation*, he speaks in other Words, concerning the very same Things he had mentioned in the foregoing Verse: *But not as the offence, so is the free gift, for if through the offence of one many be dead. One that sinned, or one sin* * in ver. 16. answereth to the offence in ver. 15. *The gift*, ver. 16. answers to, and is the same thing with *the free gift*, ver. 15. And the *condemnation* inflicted by the judgment of God, ver. 16. answereth to, and, in effect, is the same thing with the *being dead*, ver. 15. Again, it is no less clear, plain, and true, that these Words, ver. 17. *by one man's offence death reigned by one*, answer in Sense, and in the Apostle's Design, to these Words, ver. 18. *By the offence of one, judgment came upon all men to condemnation* †. This is true; and you must consider it well before you go any further.

III. IN

* So some *Greek* Copies read it.

† NOTE, In all the Scriptures, from one end to the other, there is recorded but one *Judgment to Condemnation*, one Sentence, one judicial Act of Condemnation

III. IN the 19th Verse, where he concludeth the whole Argument, I think any Man, who duly attends, may see, that these Words, *As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners*, are of the same Signification with those Words in the foregoing Verse; *As by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation*. For so the two Sentences run. *Therefore as, by the offence of one, judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so, by the righteousness of one, the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners: so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous*. He speaks of the same Things apparently in both Sentences, ‡ after the same manner

ation which *came upon all men*; and that is, Gen. iii. 17, 18, 19. *In sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life, - - - till thou return unto the ground: for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return*. Besides this, we find no other Judgment to condemnation, which came upon all men, in the whole Bible. And if certainly there be in Scripture no other Judgment to Condemnation which came upon all Men but that; then certainly the Apostle, if arguing upon the Scripture Account, can mean no other but that.

‡ The Apostle uses a Variety of Phrases in expressing the same thing, probably because he wrote in the same Letter to very different sorts of People, viz. to *Jews* and *Gentiles*, and therefore sometimes he speaks in common Greek, sometimes in the *Jewish* manner of Speech, not only to inculcate the Point more effectually, but, perhaps, that he might not be mistaken by either of the Parties.

manner as in 1 Cor. xv. 21, 22. *For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam: all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

WELL then, there is no doubt but these Words, *As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners*, are of the very same Sense with those Words, *As by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation*. But we have shewn, that these Words, *By the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation*, do answer in Sense, and in the Apostle's Design, to those Words, ver. 17. *By one man's offence, DEATH reigned by one*; and by *Death* most certainly is intended no other than the DEATH and Mortality common to all Mankind. Therefore it follows, that these Words, *By one man's disobedience many were made sinners*, mean neither more nor less, than that by one Man's Disobedience, *the many*, that is, Mankind, were made subject to DEATH, by the judicial Act of God. This Conclusion, I think, must be true, if *Words* and *Understanding* are of any Use. However, carefully review this Reasoning, and see if you can find any Flaw in it.

FURTHER, let it be well considered, that the Apostle was a Jew; that the Hebrew Tongue was his native Language; that he not only wrote to such as understood Greek, but

but to a considerable Body of Men who were best acquainted with the *Hebrew* Dialect: *That* (tho' he wrote his Letter in *Creek*, yet) he often uses such ways of speaking as are peculiar to the *Hebrew* Language. Now, according to that Language, *Being made Sinners*, may very well signify, *being adjudged or condemned to death*. For the *Hebrew* Word רשע which signifies *to be a Sinner* *, in the Conjugation *Hipbil*, signifies to *make one a Sinner* by a judicial Sentence, or to *condemn*; and so it is often used. For instance, *Exod.* xxii. 9. *And whom the Judges ירשעו shall condemn*, or make a Sinner. *Deut.* xxv. 1. *Then they (the Judges) shall justify the Righteous, וזרשעו and condemn the Wicked.* 1 *King.* viii. 32. *Hear thou in heaven, and do, and judge thy servants לזרשעו condemning the wicked,* making the wicked a Sinner. *Job* ix. 20. *If I justify my self, my own mouth ירשעני will condemn me*, make me wicked, or a Sinner. *Job* x. 2. *I will say unto God, do not רשיעני condemn me*, make me a Sinner by thy Sentence. *Job* xv. 6. *Thy own mouth condemneth thee*, maketh thee a Sinner. *Job* xxxii. 3. *And yet had condemned Job*; made him a Sinner. *Job* xxxiv. 17. *And תרשעו wilt thou condemn him that*

* N. B. The Noun רשע is translated by ἁμαρτωλός, *Sinner*, the Word the Apostle here useth, no less than sixty-two times in the *Greek* of the Septuagint, 2 *Cor.* xix. 2. *Psal.* iii. 7. vii. 10. ix. 17, 18, 24, 25. x. 2, 7. xxxvii. 3, xxxi. 13, &c. *Ibid.* *From Concord.*

that is most just? make him a Sinner by a judicial Act, by judging him such? Job xl. 8. Wilt thou also disannul my Judgment? חרשׁיעני Wilt thou condemn me (saith the Lord to Job) that thou mayest be righteous? Wilt thou sit as Judge upon me, and condemn me, i. e. make me a Sinner by thy Sentence, that thou mayest justify thy self? Psal. xxxvii. 33. The Lord will not leave him in his hand, nor ירשׁיעני condemn him, (suffer him to be made a Sinner by an act of Judgment) when he is judged. Psal. xciv. 21. Shall the throne, the judgment-seat, of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law? they gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous, and ירשׁיעני condemn (make wicked by an act of judgment) the innocent blood. Prov. xvii. 15. He that justifieth the wicked, ומרשׁיע and he that condemneth, (maketh a sinner judicially) the just, even they both are an abomination to the Lord. Isai. i. 9. Behold the Lord God will help me, who is he that shall condemn me? make me a sinner? Isai. liv. 17. And every tongue that shall rise up against thee in judgment, חרשׁיעני thou shalt condemn, make wicked, or a sinner.

THESE Quotations evidence this to be a familiar Form of Speech in the *Hebrew* Scriptures. And you see, according to this way of speaking, how these two Expressions do exactly agree in Signification, and that they might

might have been expressed by the very same Word in *Hebrew*, *By the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation*; and, *by one man's disobedience many were made sinners*: For *condemnation in judgment, and making one a sinner*, by a judicial Act, by an Act of Judgment, are the very same thing in the *Hebrew Language* *.

BUT besides all this, it is here expressly affirmed, that *the many*, i. e. Mankind, *are made Sinners*, not by their *own Disobedience*, but by the Disobedience of *another Man*. Now any one may see, there is a vast Difference between a Man's making *himself* a Sinner by his

* NOTE, It is not in the *Greek Text* ἐγενοντο became Sinners; but κατεσθηνσαν were constituted Sinners, viz. by the Will and Appointment of the Judge. Indeed the *Septuagint* render the *Hebrew Word* הַרְשִׁיעַ variously: Sometimes by καταγενομεθα, καταδικαζω, κατανοω, πταω, ασεβω, τιμωται ειναι ασεβη, &c. which last cometh nearest to the Apostle's Phrase. You have it in *Job xxxii. 3.* ἐπει οτι αυτος ειναι ασεβη. But let it be remembred, the Apostle is not here quoting any Text out of the Old Testament; and therefore may well be supposed to express himself in his own Way: Which whether it doth not as fully and truly convey the Idea of the *Hebrew Word*, as any Word or Words the *Septuagint* have chosen, the Learned will easily judge. To me, I confess, it seems beyond all Dispute.

own wicked Act, and his being made a Sinner by the wicked Act of *another*, of which he is altogether guiltless. They who are *made Sinners* by the Disobedience of *another*, without their own Knowledge or Consent, surely *can be Sinners* in no other Sense but as they are *Sufferers* †. They are *Sinners* by sharing in the Calamities of those that have sinned; which may be, without any Wrong to them, by the just Appointment of God, not as a Punishment, but for other good Reasons. So *Lot* would have been *made a Sinner* with the *Sodomites*, Gen. xix. 15. had he not escaped out of the City; he would have been *consumed in the Iniquity of the City*. So *Abimelech's* Subjects would have been *made Sinners*, had he been guilty of Adultery, Gen. xx. 9. *What have I offended thee, that thou hast brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin?* How *Sin* was in danger of being brought upon them

† המארה and יצ Sin and Iniquity are frequently used to signify *suffering*, by putting the Effect for the Cause. Consult the Hebrew of the following Texts, Gen. iv. 13. Lev. xxvi. 41, 43. 1 Sam. xxviii. 10. 2 King. vii. 9. Job xix. 29. Lam. iii. 39--46. Ezek. xiv. 10. Zech. xiv. 19. with several other Places. And in the *Levitical Law*, *Bearing iniquity*, or *sin*, and *being put to death*, are Terms of the same signification, as Lev. xxii. 9. *Bear sin and die therefore*. Num. xviii. 22. *Lest they bear sin, and die*. Numb. xii. 11. *Lay not the sin upon us, i. e. let us not suffer for it*.

them he explains, *ver. 4. He said, Lord, wilt thou slay also a righteous nation?* In the same Sense, *Jer. li. 6. Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity.*—So CHRIST was made *sin for us, who knew no sin, 2 Cor. v. 21. He was number'd amongst transgressors.* Take Sin in what Sense you please, it is all one to our present Purpose. He, who was perfectly free from all Sin, was, without any Injustice to him, made *sin for us* in some sense or other. And therefore a Person may be made *sin*, or may be numbered among transgressors, who is no ways guilty of that Sin, for which he is made a Sinner. For CHRIST was made *sin*, who never was guilty of any Sin at all. The plain Truth is, CHRIST suffered on account of the Sins of Men, and so HE was made *sin*: And Men suffer on account of Adam's first Sin, and so THEY are made Sinners.

IT seems then confirmed and cleared to me beyond all Doubt, that, *By one man's disobedience many were made sinners,* the Apostle meaneth neither more nor less, than that by Adam's Offence, the many, that is, Mankind, were made subject to Death by the Judgment of God.

IN this Paragraph there is but a Word or two more relating to the Point in hand, namely, *So death passed upon all men, for that all have*
D 2 *sinned:*

sinced : And having cleared that, I might come to a Conclusion, without entering upon the other Parts which relate to the Obedience of *Christ*. But because this Place wants to be illustrated, and what is said concerning the Grace of God in *Christ* will shew still more fully the Apostle's Sense and Meaning, as to the Consequences of *Adam's* Sin, I will proceed, and give you my Sentiments on the whole Paragraph. Further then,

IV. IT is evident, that the Apostle draws a Comparifon between *Adam* and *Christ* ; something that *Adam* did, and the Consequences of that ; and something that *Christ* did, and the Consequences of that : And this Comparifon is the main Thing he had in View.

IN *ver. 14.* he faith, *Adam is the figure of him that was to come* ; that is, of *Christ*, the *Messiah*. It is in the *Greek*, *the Type of him that was to come*. A *Type* fignifieth fuch a Mark, or Impreffion, as is made by a Stamp or a Seal. It is ufed, *John xx. 25.* to fignify the Mark which the Nails made in our Saviour's Hands when he was nailed to the Tree, and is well rendered *the Print of the Nails*. *Except I fhall fee in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails.* You have the fame Word alfo, *Acts vii. 44.* *Mofès* was ordered to make the
Taber-

Tabernacle according to the Type, the Fashion or Pattern, he had seen. And again, *Heb. viii. 5. See thou make all things according to the Type, the pattern, shewed to thee in the mount.* A Type therefore is a relative Word, signifying a Thing to which another is to answer and agree: As the Figure upon the Wax answers, is like to, agrees with, the Figure upon the Seal; or as the Thing which is made answers to the Pattern and Plan after which it is made. Hence the Apostle *Paul* several times applies it to moral Action under the Notion of an *Example*, namely, when the Behaviour of one Man is made the Seal or Stamp to be impressed upon another Man; or when one Man's Actions are made a Pattern to be copied after by another Man. As *Phil. iii. 17. 1 Thes. i. 7. 2 Thes. iii. 9. 1 Tim. iv. 12. Tit. ii. 7. 1 Pet. v. 3.* In the Place therefore before us, when *Adam* is said to be a Type of him that was to come, or of *Christ*, no Doubt can be made, that he intends thereby to denote, there was something with reference to *Christ*, which was to bear a Correspondence, or to answer unto something with reference to *Adam*: or that he draweth a Comparison between something that *Adam* did, and the Consequences of that, and something that *Christ* did, and the Consequences of that. This Comparison he begins at the 12th Verse; but there nameth only one Part of it. [Here again I desire you would open the Bible, and keep the Place under

your Eye, otherwise you will not see the Method and Connection of the Paragraph.] *Wherefore as by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, &c.* To make the Comparison compleat, it should have run thus; *As by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and in that manner death came upon all men: So by another Man something, as a Counter-part, came to pass in relation to that Affair.* But in this 12th Verse, the Apostle, I say, does not take in both Parts of the Comparison; he only mentions what happened on *Adam's* Part, namely, that Death entered into the World by his Sin, and by his Sin came upon all Mankind. There he stops a while, and before he goeth any further, brings an Argument to prove, that it was as he said; that Death came upon Mankind, not for their personal Sins, but upon account of *Adam's* one Transgression: That it was his first Sin alone, his one Offence, which subjected Mankind to Death. This Argument you have, *ver.* 13, 14. In the Close of the 14th Verse he tells you, there is a Correspondence, an Agreement, a Resemblance between *Adam* and *Christ*: Something in the one that answereth to something in the other. *Adam* is the Type, the Pattern of *him that was to come* *.

Here

* OBSERVE, The Comparison consists of three Parts; two affirmative Propositions, and the Connection or Relation betwixt them; Thus,

Prop.

Here a new Thought starts in the Apostle's Mind. This was to be explained to prevent Mistakes. Something in the *Free-gift* in *Christ* answereth to something in the *Offence* of *Adam*. But have a care, saith the Apostle, you do not imagine that they are, in all Respects, parallel, and that the *free Gift* is just of the same Extent with the *Offence* and its Consequences. Though now I intend to draw a comparison betwixt them, yet you ought to know, that the Grace and Benefits in the Redeemer OVERFLOW and ABOUND far beyond the Consequences, the ill Effects of the first Offence. This he handleth in the 15th, 16th, and 17th Verses. And then having dispatched these incidental Reflections, which fell in his Way from what he had said, he takes up again his main Design, *ver.* 18, 19. half of which he had but executed in the 12th Verse,

D 4 and

Prop. I. 1. By *Adam's* DISOBEDIENCE *Death* entered into the World.

Connect. 2. *Adam*, in this, was a Type or Figure of *Christ* : Or, in respect to this, *Christ* is the Counterpart to *Adam*.

Prop. II. 3. By *Christ's* OBEDIENCE *Life* is restored to the World.

You may see then how methodically the Apostle proceeds, in clearing the first Proposition and the Connection, before he advanceth to the second Proposition.

and which he had but hinted at in the Close of the 14th Verse. *Therefore or wherefore*, these Things being thus explained, *As by the offence of one*, (Adam) *judgment came upon all Men to condemnation, even so by the Righteousness of one, the free gift came upon all men to justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners; so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

CERTAIN it is therefore that the Apostle draweth a Comparison between the *Disobedience of Adam*, by which [*ἑνὶ πολλοῖς*] *the many*, i. e. all Men, are brought under Condemnation, and the *Obedience of Christ*, by which all Men are *justified unto Life*. And this is the *main Thing* he had in View. For the 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th Verses are, by way of Explication of some particular Points, in order to establish the main Point, and to prevent Mistakes concerning it.

V. THE whole of the Apostle's Argument and Assertion standeth plainly upon this double Foot; that it is by the ONE OFFENCE of *Adam* that Death passed upon all Men, and not by their own personal Sins: And again, that it is by the OBEDIENCE OF ONE, or the one Act of *Christ's* Obedience (in his Sufferings and Death upon the Cross, I suppose; see *ver. 9, 10.*) that all Men are justified unto Life, and not by their own personal Righteousness. The
latter.

latter is the grand Principle of the Gospel, affirmed by THE SON OF GOD himself, and confirmed by signs and wonders, and divers miracles and gifts of the Holy Ghost, Hebr. ii. 3, 4. The former he proves in ver. 13, 14.

VER. 12. *By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so, that is, in Consequence of his Sin, death passed, or came upon all men.* This must be true; for

VER. 13. From the Time that *Adam* sinned, until the law delivered to the Jews, (which was the first Law after that given to *Adam*, that threatened Sin in general * with Death) *Sin was in the World*; that is, Men were

* That positive Law given to *Noah*, Gen. ix. 6. *Who so sheds man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed*, certainly maketh Death the Punishment of Murther. But that Law was not enacted till the Year of the World 1657; and the Apostle expresseth himself with such a Latitude as leaveth room enough for excepting the Case of that particular Sin, which doth not affect his Argument. For *not all* by far sinned against that positive Law, and yet *all* died. And as for those few who might be put to Death upon that Law, or those greater Numbers who perished for their own Sins in the Deluge, and the Overthrow of *Sodom* and *Gomorrab*, although they died for their own particular Sins, yet they were not *made mortal* by those Sins. For, according to the Apostle's Argument, had they not committed those Sins they

were guilty of various Sorts of Sin during the Interval between *Adam's* Sin, and the Law given to the *Jews*; in the greatest Part of which Period there was no positive Law instituted by God, threatening Sin with Death :
but

they would have died. Every Man is mortal from the Moment he receiveth Life and Being ; and Death passeth upon all Men indifferently (yea upon Infants) without Respect to their Virtues or Vices. Therefore, if a Man by his own Crimes brings Death upon himself, such Death is only an Anticipation of that Death which, in a few Years, he would certainly have died in common with all Mankind ; and the Life he forfeits is not immortal Life, but a few Days or Years of that Life which was lost to all Men in *ADAM*, and shall be restored to all Men in *CHRIST* : See *Locke* upon *Rom. v. 15*. --- This is true ; but the Apostle's Way of arguing evidently supposeth, That he could not so well have proved this Point, had there been, from the Time of *Adam*, a Law, like unto that of *Moses*, given to all Mankind ; a Law subjecting *every* Transgression and Disobedience unto Death. For then it might have been urged, that possibly all Men died for their own personal Transgressions, seeing they were under a Law which annexed the Penalty of Death to *every* Transgression. Here then lieth the Force of his Argument, That from *Adam* to *Moses* there was no Law enacted which made Death the Penalty of *EVERY* Transgression ; no, nor of *ANY* Transgression, excepting that of *Murder*, which towards the End of that Period was made capital ; and yet *all* died ; not only they who *possibly* sinned against the Law relating to Murder, but even all other Men, who sinned neither against that, nor any other Law, which made Death the Penalty of their Transgressions.

but sin is not imputed unto Death, where there is no law threatening it with Death.

VER. 14. *Nevertheless, death reigned all the long Space of 2000 Years from Adam to Moses, even over them who had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's Transgression.* That is, had not sinned against such a Law as *Adam* sinned against, namely, a positive Law, instituted by God, threatening Death to the Transgressors of it : For, in the far greatest Part of the Time from *Adam* to *Moses*, there was *no* Law in the World threatening Sin with Death. And therefore, though Sin in it's several Branches was, during that Space of Time, committed by Mankind, yet Death could not be imputed to them for their Transgression of such a Law, when such a Law was not in being. It remains therefore that Death was universally inflicted upon Mankind on account of *Adam's* one Transgression. Further,

VI. THE Consequences of *Adam's* Sin upon us, and the Consequences of *Christ's* Obedience, are not of the same Extent ; for so the Apostle saith expressly, *ver. 15, &c.* He had said, *ver. 14.* that *Adam* was a *Figure*, a *Type of him that was to come* ; that *Adam* and *Christ* do answer and correspond to one another : but not in every respect ; very far from that.

VER. 15.

VER. 15. *But not as the offence (of Adam) so also is the free gift (of God in Christ;) For if through the offence of one the many be dead; MUCH MORE the grace [the Favour] of God, and the gift [the Benefits that are] by grace which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath ABOUNDED unto the many.* That is, he hath in *Christ* bestowed Benefits and Blessings upon Mankind of his mere Favour, far exceeding, and abounding beyond, the Consequences of *Adam's* Sin. He hath not only taken off those Consequences, but over and above hath conferred a rich Overplus of Grace, in erecting a new Dispensation, furnished with a glorious Fund of Light and Truth, Means and Motives.

VER. 16. *And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by ONE [Offence] to condemnation; but the free gift is of MANY offences unto justification:* That is, the Grace of God in *Christ*, not only discharges Mankind from the Consequences of *Adam's* ONE Offence, but also hath Relation to their own MANY personal Offences, in order to accomplish the most perfect Justification, by setting them quite to Rights with God, both as to a Conformity to the Law, and as to the Blessing, eternal Life.

VER. 17. *For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; MUCH MORE they which receive*

ceive the ABUNDANCE of grace †, the Overflowings of Grace spoken of, *ver. 15. and the gift of righteousness*, the free Grant of a Right to Life and Salvation, *shall reign in life by one Jesus Christ.*

THIS makes it clear, That the Consequences of CHRIST's Obedience, the Grace of God founded upon, or communicated through, his Obedience, do *extend, abound, and overflow* far beyond the Consequences of *Adam's Sin*, or what God thought fit to adjudge Mankind unto, upon Occasion of his Sin.

REFLECTIONS.

“ HENCE it followeth,

“ I. THAT the ABOUNDING or overflowing of GOD's *Grace*, and of *the Gift*,
 “ or Benefit and Blessings *by that Grace*, doth
 “ not respect the Consequences of *Adam's*
 “ Sin, hath no Reference to his TRANS-
 “ GRESSION, but to a nobler, opposite Cause,
 “ namely, the GRACE of GOD, and the
 “ OBEDIENCE of CHRIST: and that
 “ *Christ* came to redeem us, not only from
 “ that which came upon us by *Adam's Trans-*
 “ *gression,*

† It should rather have been translated, the ABOUNDING of Grace: meaning that Part of God's Grace, which *aboundeth* and overfloweth beyond the delivering us from the Consequences of *Adam's Transgression.*

“ *gression*, but to do something more, ABUNDANTLY more for us.”

“ II. IT followeth, That the Apostle’s Comparison, in *ver.* 18, 19. is to be understood only so far as the Consequences of *Christ’s* Obedience are of the same Extent with the Consequences of *Adam’s* Disobedience: so far as the *one* hath Relation to the *other*, and no further.

“ THIS seems to be clear from what hath been already said, *pag.* 37, 38, 39. I here add, that in the 15th, 16th and 17th Verses he certainly speaks of the *Disparity*, the ABOUNDING of *Grace*, in relation to which, *Adam* was not a *Figure*, or *Type*, of *him that was to come*. And had he, in the 18th and 19th Verses, meant the same *Disparity* or ABOUNDING of *Grace* on CHRIST’s Part, surely he would not have said, As by the one, so by the other: but (as *ver.* 15, 17.) MUCH MORE by the Righteousness or Obedience of the other. For had he intended a *Disparity*, no doubt he would have used the Expressions which denote a *Disparity*. But whereas he only saith, As by the one, so by the other, holding the Scales in an even Ballance, without using the Terms of *Disparity*, MUCH MORE, we may well conclude he intended no *Disparity*, but considered the Effects of

“ CHRIST’s

“ CHRIST’s *Obedience* only so far as they
 “ answer to, and reverse the Consequences
 “ of ADAM’s *Disobedience*.

“ AGAIN observe, that the *Justification to*
 “ LIFE, *ver. 18.* is such a Justification as
 “ comes upon ALL MEN, just as *the DEATH*,
 “ which answereth to it in the Comparison,
 “ *ver. 12.* is said to *pass*, or come upon ALL
 “ MEN. And the MANY who are said to
 “ be made *righteous*, *ver. 19.* are, for ought
 “ appears, the same MANY, who are said to
 “ be *made Sinners* in the same Verse; and
 “ therefore are not to be understood of any
 “ particular select *many*, who alone are to be
 “ Partakers of the ABOUNDING Grace; but
 “ of *all Mankind*: For when the Apostle
 “ speaks of the REIGNING in *Life*, *ver. 17.*
 “ as the Effect of *the ABOUNDING Grace*,
 “ he uses a different Way of speaking; he
 “ doth not say, *The MANY shall REIGN in*
 “ *Life*; but those only who RECEIVE, that
 “ is, improve the ABOUNDING of *Grace*,
 “ and of the Gift of God’s Kindness towards
 “ Man; wherein his Mercy and Goodness
 “ have indeed *abounded unto many*, *ver. 15.*
 “ that is, unto all Men; but they only
 “ REIGN in *Life*, who receive that ABOUND-
 “ ING of *Grace*. Therefore as in the Compa-
 “ rison *Justification to Life*, on *Christ’s* Part,
 “ comes upon ALL MEN, as well as *Death*
 “ on *Adam’s* Part; and seeing the same
 “ MANY

“ MANY are made *righteous* by *Christ's*
 “ *one Obedience*, who were made *Sinners* by
 “ *Adam's one Disobedience*; it followeth, that
 “ the Apostle, in those two Verses, draweth
 “ the Comparison only so far as the Effects of
 “ *Christ's Obedience*, and. of *Adam's Disobe-*
 “ *dience* are of the same Extent.

“ FURTHER; this Sentiment is confirmed
 “ by the Phrase, *Being made righteous*, which,
 “ as well as that of *being made Sinners*, is a
 “ Hebrew Way of speaking. For as the
 “ Word רשע in *Hiphil* signifieth *to be made a*
 “ *Sinner*, by a judicial Act, as I have shewn
 “ before: So also the Word צדק *to be righte-*
 “ *ous, to be justified* in the same Conjugation
 “ *Hiphil* signifieth *to be made righteous*
 “ by a judicial Act, *i. e. to be acquitted, ab-*
 “ *solved*. And thus, as it ought to do, it
 “ standeth directly opposite to *being made a*
 “ *Sinner* by a judicial Act. *Exod. xxiii. 7. ---*
 “ *the innocent slay thou not—for לא אצדיק I*
 “ *will not justify* (make righteous) *the wicked.*
 “ *Deut. xxv. 1. If there be a controversy be-*
 “ *tween men, &c. והצדיקו then they shall justify*
 “ (make righteous by a judicial Act) *the*
 “ *righteous, and condemn the wicked, make*
 “ *him a Sinner, as before. 1 Kings viii. 32.*
 “ *Judge thy servants condemning the wicked,*
 “ *to bring his way upon his head, והצדיק and*
 “ *justifying the righteous, &c. Prov. xvii. 15.*
 “ מצדיק *He that justifieth* (maketh righteous
 “ by

“ by a judicial Act) *the wicked, and he that*
 “ *condemneth the just, &c.* Isai. v. 23. *which*
 “ *justify* (make righteous by an Act of Judg-
 “ *ment) the wicked for a reward.*

“ FROM all this it followeth, That as *the*
 “ *judgment which passed upon all men to con-*
 “ *demnation,* is Death's coming upon all Men
 “ by the judicial Act of God upon occasion
 “ of Adam's Transgression : so *the free Gift's*
 “ *coming upon all men to Justification of life* is
 “ the reversing of that Condemnation to
 “ Death ; or the appointing them to Life again
 “ after they are dead, by a like judicial Act
 “ of God, upon the account of Christ's
 “ Righteousness. Or, in other Words, *ver.* 19.
 “ *As the many were made Sinners,* [or con-
 “ *demned to death]* *by one man's Disobedience,*
 “ *so the many shall be made righteous,* [by a
 “ judicial Act, that is, *shall be acquitted,* as
 “ to that Condemnation, by being restored
 “ to Life again *at the Resurrection]* *by or thro'*
 “ *the Obedience of one.* And thus these two
 “ Verses are evidently parallel to 1 Cor. xv.
 “ 21, 22. *For since by man came death, by*
 “ *man came also the resurrection of the dead :*
 “ *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ*
 “ *shall all be made alive ;* that is to say, as by
 “ the offence of one Judgment came upon all men
 “ to condemnation : even so by the righteous-
 “ *ness of one the free Gift cometh upon all men*
 “ *to justification of life.* For as by one man's
 E “ *disobe-*

“ *disobedience many were made sinners : so*
 “ *by the obedience of one shall many be made*
 “ *righteous.*

“ THUS I judge concerning the Compari-
 “ son in *ver.* 18, 19. Not that it would affect
 “ the Point under Examination, if the *Justifi-*
 “ *cation to life*, *ver.* 18. and the *being made*
 “ *righteous*, *ver.* 19. should both be under-
 “ stood in the full Extent of the ABOUND-
 “ ING Grace. For were this true, yet is it
 “ evident, surely beyond all Doubt, that the
 “ ill Effects or Consequences of *Adam's Sin*
 “ upon us, which the Apostle here speaks
 “ of, are no other than that *Death* which
 “ comes upon all Men, and from which all
 “ Men will be delivered at the Resur-
 “ rection.

“ HERE by the Way we may see a good
 “ Reason why the Scripture speaks so sparing-
 “ ly of the Consequences of *Adam's Sin* upon
 “ us : Because as these are freely absolved
 “ and reversed to Mankind in *Christ*, so we
 “ are not so much concerned to know them,
 “ as to understand, and improve the ABOUND-
 “ ING Grace, the Means and Season of Grace
 “ which God hath *abundantly* provided in a
 “ Redeemer for the cultivating of our Nature,
 “ to deliver us from the Corruption that is in
 “ the World through Lust, to perfect Ho-
 “ linefs, and to prepare us for his King-
 “ dom

“ dom and Glory. All which have no Relation to *Adam's Sin*, or its Consequences upon us.”

NOTHING more, I think, wants to be explained in this Passage but that Expression; *ver. 12. And so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned*, namely, in *Adam*: For the Apostle doth not here intend to affirm, That Death passed upon all Men, by their *own Sins*. The whole of his Discourse plainly shews, that he understood and believed, that Death came upon Mankind by *Adam's ONE Offence*. And he sets himself directly to prove it, *ver. 13, 14*, as I have shewn before. Death therefore must be understood to have passed upon all Mankind, not *for that they all have sinned* really, properly, and personally: But *they have sinned, are made Sinners*, are subjected to Death, through the *ONE OFFENCE of ONE MAN*, that is, of *Adam*.

THEREFORE the Apostle's Argument constrains us to take these Words, *For that all have sinned*, in the same, or nearly the same, Sense with those, *Are made Sinners*, *ver. 19*.

INDEED, the Words in the *Greek* are not without Difficulty *. But that Difficulty can

E 2

be

* *Kai utros eis pantas anthropos o thanatos emelen, ti ti o pantas hmaslon.* Here the Particle *ω* [which] refers, according to the Rules of Grammar, to *thanatos*, [Death] the

be no Objection against the clear and evident Scope of the whole Discourse. On the contrary, the clear and evident Scope of the whole Discourse should determine what is obscure and uncertain in any one particular Phrase, and leave us persuaded, that such particular Phrase, could we hit upon its true Sense, would appear in signification to agree perfectly with the Drift of the whole Argument.

the next Substantive going before, that it can agree with; and the Preposition *επι*, when construed with a Dative Case, as it is here, signifieth, among other Things, [*to, unto.*] As *Gal. v. 13. Ephes. ii. 10. 1 Thes. iv. 7. 2 Tim. ii. 14.* *Επ' ευδοξια ὁδῶ*, *the Way to Fame*, Lucian. *Κακουργῶ ἐπὶ τῷ θανάτῳ*, *a Criminal unto Death*, reus mortis. *Demosth. Ἐπὶ θανάτῳ συλλαβεῖν*, *ad necem rapere.* *Isoc. Ἐπὶ θανάτῳ φρουρεῖμενοι*, *ad necem custoditi.* *Plut.* Accordingly what we render FOR THAT *all have sinned*, should rather have been, UNTO WHICH [*Death*] *all have sinned*. I know *ἐφ' ὧ* sometimes seems to be used absolutely, without an Antecedent, and then it may be understood conditionally, as *2 Cor. v. 4.* *For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: ἐφ' ὧ ἔδεσμεν* with this Restriction or Proviso, or so far, *that we would not be UNCLOTHED*, [no, that is not the only, or ultimate Object of our Desire] *but CLOTHED upon.* But where there is an Antecedent expressed or understood, it agrees with it; as *Mar. ii. 4.* *They set down the bed ἐφ' ὧ wherein, i. e. on which bed, the sick of the palsy lay.* See *Mat. xxvi. 50. Luk. v. 25.* So here; Death passed upon all Men, *ἐφ' ὧ unto which Death, or as far as which Death, all have sinned in Adam.*

THIS surely is right. And that [*all have sinned*] should signify [*are made Sinners, or Sufferers*] will not seem so very strange, if we consider, that the Apostle, in other Parts of this Paragraph, evidently speaks in the *Hebrew Dialect*; and possibly here may have his Eye upon

ment. Seeing then the Phrase [*all are made Sinners*, ver. 19.] hath been demonstrated to signify, *all are subjected to Death by the judicial Act of God*; and seeing the Apostle's whole Argument turns upon this Point, That all Men die, not thro' their *own* Sins, but thro' the one Offence of *Adam*, who can doubt but

upon the *Hebrew* Word **אשם** which signifies both *to be guilty*, and *to be laid waste, destroyed, made desolate*, Prov. xxx. 10. - - lest he curse thee **ואשם** and thou be found guilty. The *Septuagint* render it ἀφανίζης, and thou perish, or be destroyed. Psal. v. 10. **האשים** destroy thou them, Marg. make them guilty. Psal. xxxiv. 21. They that hate the righteous **ואשם** shall be desolate; Marg. shall be guilty. Ezek. vi. 6. The high places **חישניה** shall be desolate, demolished. These Instances, with several others, shew, that to *perish, to be destroyed, demolished*, are in *Hebrew* expressed by a Word, which originally and properly signifieth *to be guilty*. And what if the Apostle chose to express Mankind's being demolished or destroyed by Death, by a *Greek* Word, which also denoteth *Sin* or *Guilt*: especially considering that the *Septuagint* Version (which the Writers of the New Testament generally follow) sometimes renders **אשם** by ἀμαρτανω, the Word which the Apostle here useth. Lev. v. 4. **ואשם** εἰς ἀμαρτιαν, then he shall be guilty. And twice in 2 Chron. xix. 10. - - Isai. xxiv. 6. They that dwell therein **ואשם** ηὐαρίστησαν, are desolate, are guilty. Gen. xlii. 21. **אשמים** ἐν ἀμαρτια εἰσμεν, we are guilty, are in Sin, are Sufferers, i. e. we are in this Distress upon account of our Brother, &c. And possibly by this last the Apostolic Phrase may be resolved, thus; πάντες ηὐαρίστησαν, h. e. ἐν ἀμαρτια εἰσιν. Thus the *Hebrew* way of speaking seems to confirm what we may truly and certainly collect from the whole Scope of the Apostle's Argument, namely, That [*all have sinned*] is the same, or nearly the same, in signification with [*all are made Sinners*.] If there is any Difference, perhaps it lieth

but the Words, *for that all have sinned*, must be understood in a like Sense to those, *all are made Sinners*, however the particular manner of Expression be accounted for? And should we render the Words thus; *And so Death passed upon all Men, unto which all have sinned*: and explain them thus; *Death passed upon all Men, as far even as which † all Men were constituted Sinners, or were treated as Sinners*; that is to say, *all Men became Sufferers in consequence of Adam's one Offence*, I am inclined to believe we should not be far wide of the Apostle's true Intention.

THUS

in this, That, by [*all have sinned*] the Apostle expresseth the State of Suffering, into which Mankind are brought, in the *general* Notion of it. For in the 12th Verse he considers the Entrance of Death into the World, in a *general* Way, and no further than it is the Consequence of the Sin of *one Man*. But when he is entered fully into his Argument, he saith, *all are made Sinners*, which, besides the Sin of *Adam*, includeth this further Thought, That we are in a State of suffering, or subject to Death, by the Sentence and judicial Act of the Lawgiver. And with this Distinction, the *Hebrew* Words חַטָּא, which signifieth *Guilt*, or *Suffering* in general; and עֲשֵׂה חַטָּא, which signifieth *being made guilty*, or a *Sufferer*, by the Sentence of the Judge, do very well agree.

† Εἰς ὃ πάντες ἥμαρτον. I strongly suspect, εἰς ὃ stands here under a particular Emphasis, as denoting the *terminus ad quem*, or the utmost Length of the Consequences of *Adam's Sin*. *Unto which*, AS FAR EVEN AS WHICH, all [ἥμαρτον, or ἐν ἀμαρτία εἶπον] are under Sin, or in a State of suffering: As if he had said, so FAR have the Consequences of *Adam's Sin* extended, and spread their influence amongst Mankind, introducing not only a
Curse,

THUS, upon the Whole, it seemeth to me, we have got the true Sense of this Place, so far at least as it relateth to the Affair in hand. We have hitherto taken the Parts separately : the Harmony and Force of the whole will best be seen in the following Paraphrase.

12. IN relation to which Affair ‡ of our *Reconcilia-* 12. *Wherefore, as by one man sin enter'd*
tion,

Curse upon the Earth, and Sorrow and Toil upon it's Inhabitants, but even DEATH, UNIVERSAL DEATH in every Part, and in all Ages of the World.

NOR is this the only Place where εφ ω seems to bear a like Sense : See Phil. iii. 12. *If that I may apprehend that εφ ω for which also I am apprehended of Jesus Christ.* It might be rendered thus ; *That I may apprehend so far as that for which also I am apprehended, &c.* As if he had said, That I may lay hold of Happiness, even in that high and excellent Sense, that furthest Reach and Extent, for the attaining of which Jesus Christ hath laid hold of me, in calling me not only to the Faith of the Gospel, but moreover to the highest and most honourable Office of an Apostle. And again, Phil. iv. 10. *But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your Care of me hath flourished again, εφ ω wherein, as far as which, ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.* The Apostle was glad to find the kind and friendly Sentiments of the *Philippians* towards him in a flourishing State, εφ ω κ' εἰσπορεύετε, in which most happy and comfortable Degree of Kindness and Love I am sensible, saith he, ye did regard me before you sent the Present by *Epaphroditus* (ver. 18.) only you wanted Opportunity to express it.

‡ So δια τούτο frequently signifieth ; as *Mat.* vi. 25. - - xii. 31. - - - xiii. 13, 52. [in this 52d Verse it is taken thus, *with relation to this Affair*, namely, of the under-

into the world *, and death by sin ; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

tion, or happy Change of State †, I have another Argument to advance, where-by the Grace of the Gospel will appear to be free to all Mankind, and to be rightly founded upon the Death, or Obedience of the SON OF GOD. To this Purpose, let it be observed, That by one Man, *Adam*, Sin entered into the World. He began Transgression, and through his one Sin Death

standing, and receiving Instruction, which he had been speaking of just before] *Mat.* xxiii. 34. *Mark* xii. 24. *Luke* xi. 49.—xii. 22. *John* vi. 65.—vii. 22.—ix. 23.—xii. 18.—xiii. 11. *1 Cor.* iv. 17. —xi. 30. *Eph.* i. 15.—v. 17. *1 John* iii. 1. In all those Places it signifieth, I think, in relation to which Affair, viz. that is spoken of before ; not by way of Inference from it, but to denote a further Enlargement upon it, or the saying of something which may enforce or explain it.

* *Obf.* *Death* could not enter into the World in the same manner as *Sin* : because *Death* and *Sin* are in their Natures essentially different. *Death* being a natural Evil, may come upon us by natural Necessity, or the Will of God ; but so cannot *Sin*, which is a moral Evil : Because where-ever Necessity begins, *Sin* ceaseth, seeing it is no other than the free Choice of a wicked Mind. And therefore it is observable the Apostle doth not say, and so *Sin* passed upon all Men, but, and so *Death* passed upon all Men. For in it's own Nature *Sin* could not come upon all Mankind in the same manner as *Death*.

† Spoken of in the foregoing Verse ; where Atone-ment [*καταλλαγή*] should have been render'd *Reconciliation*, or rather, *change of State*, meaning, the *Gentiles* being admitted into the Family and Kingdom of God, and having the Assurance of eternal Salvation.

Death also entred into the World ; and so, in this Way, through his one Sin, Death came upon all Mankind, as far even as which all Men are Sufferers, through his one Offence.

13. THAT Men are subject to Death not from their own personal Sins, but from the Sin of *Adam*, I thus prove. Before the Law of *Moses* was given, and therefore while there was no positive Law in the World threatening Sin in general with Death, Men were guilty of various Sorts of Sin. But those Sins of theirs were not the Reason of their common Mortality : Because, whatever Sin may deserve, it is not taxed with the Forfeiture of Life, nor adjudged to any particular Punishment, which depends upon the sovereign Will of the Lawgiver, when the Lawgiver hath not enacted a Law declaring and specifying that Punishment.

13. *For until the law sin was in the world : but sin is not imputed when there is no law.*

14. AND yet Death, all the long Space from *Adam* to *Moses*, had an uninterrupted Dominion over Mankind, even over those who did not sin, as *Adam* did, against a Law which appointed Death the Punishment of

14. *Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.*

Sin :

Sin : Because, for the greatest Part of that Space, there was no such Law in being. And therefore it is evident, that every single Man did not, in this manner, forfeit his Life for himself ; but Life was forfeited by one general common Cause, *viz.* by the Sin of *Adam* : Between the Effects of whose Transgression, and the Effects of *his* Obedience, who was to come into the World for the Redemption of Mankind, there is a Correspondence.

15. *But not as the offence, so also is the free gift: For if thro' the offence of one many be dead; MUCH MORE the grace of God, and the gift by grace which is by one man, Jesus Christ, bath ABOUNDED unto many.*

GRACE of God, and the Donation of Benefits grounded upon the BENEVOLENCE and WORTHINESS of one Man, that great and most excellent Personage JESUS CHRIST, do ABOUND and overflow to the many, *i. e.* to all Mankind, beyond the mere reversing of the Consequences of *Adam's* Sin.

16. *And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift:*

15. NOT that the Effects of the *Transgression*, and of the *Grace* of God in *Christ* are exactly of the same Extent. By no means. For if *the many*, *i. e.* all Mankind, are made subject to Death through the TRANSGRESSION of one Man, we may strongly conclude, that the GRACE of God, and the Donation of Benefits grounded upon the BENEVOLENCE and WORTHINESS of one Man, that great and most excellent Personage JESUS CHRIST, do ABOUND and overflow to the many, *i. e.* to all Mankind, beyond the mere reversing of the Consequences of *Adam's* Sin.

16. AGAIN ; the Grace of God in *Christ*, as to it's Object and End, is not confined

fin'd to ſo narrow a Compaſs as *that* which was occaſioned by the one Tranſgreſſion. For the judicial Act, which followed *Adam's* Sin, took it's Riſe from his ONE OFFENCE alone, and terminated in *Condemnation*: But the free Gift of God in Chriſt hath Relation to the MANY OFFENCES which Men, in a long Courſe of Time, have perſonally committed; and its proper End and Tendency is to accompliſh the moſt perfect *Juſtification*, by ſetting them quite to rights with God, both as to a Conformity to the Rules of Righteouſneſs, and as to the Bleſſing, eternal Life.

for the judgment was by ONE to condemnation but the free gift is of MANY offences unto juſtification.*

17. There is no Difficulty in admitting this. For if through the Lapse of one Man, Death was *exalted to reign* over Mankind, how much more ſhall they who receive, who cloſe with, and improve, the redundant

17. *For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; MUCH MORE they which receive [the] ABUNDANCE of grace, and of the gift of righteouſneſs, ſhall reign in life by one Jeſus Chriſt.*

Grace,

* The Apoſtle uſeth three remarkable Words in this Paragraph, *δικαιωμα*, ver. 16. which we render *Juſtification*; *δικαιοσυνη*, ver. 17. which we render *Righteouſneſs*; and *δικαιωσις*, ver. 18. which we alſo render *Juſtification*. No doubt he applieth them in different Senſes, which are not, and I preſume cannot be, fully expreſſed in the *Engliſh* Tranſlation. I have endeavoured

Grace, overflowing in a rich Provision of Means, and the free Grant of a Right to Life and Salvation, how much more shall they be *exalted to reign* in Life eternal thro' that one great and most excellent Personage, JESUS CHRIST ?

18. *Therefore as by the offence of one [judgment came] upon all men to condemnation: even so by the righteousness of one [the free gift came] upon all men unto justification of life. †*

18. THUS it is true, that all Mankind are subject to Death, not through their own personal Sins, but the one Offence of *Adam*: and thus it is true also that the Grace of God, founded upon the Obedience of *Jesus Christ*, overflows in Benefits

for

to give the proper and distinct Import of each in the Paraphrase, but must not now stay to assign Reasons. That, perhaps, will be done, if I live to publish a Paraphrase upon the whole Epistle.

† The Words in this Verse included between the Brackets [] are not in the original Text. And if the Verse be read without them, it will plainly appear, the Apostles main Design is to ballance the Consequences of *Adam's Offence*, and *Christ's Obedience* so far as they relate to ALL MEN without Exception; in order to shew the Proportion and Fitnes of the *Latter* with respect to the *Former*. Thus; *As through one OFFENCE upon ALL MEN unto CONDEMNATION of Death: so through one RIGHTEOUS ACT upon ALL MEN unto JUSTIFICATION of Life*. The great Stress or Emphasis lieth upon ALL MEN, as in the next Verse, upon THE MANY, or all Mankind. For the grand Point of View is the Extensiveness of the Grace of the Gospel, in Opposition to the narrow Principles of the *Jews*, who would have confined Salvation within the Pale of their Peculiarity.

for our Salvation far beyond the Consequences of that Sin, or the mere reversing of the Mortality which that Sin brought upon Mankind. These Things being established, I return to my first Argument in the 12th Verse, which now will turn out very clear and strong. I say then, with Relation to the Affair of our Reconciliation or Change of State, through the Death of *Christ*, that it must be allowed to reach, in a Sense, to all Mankind; not only to the *Jews*, but also to the *Gentiles*. For since upon the Account of one Man's Lapse, the Sentence of Condemnation extended unto all Men; it must be true and fit, that the revoking that Condemnation, by the righteous Action of one, should likewise extend to all Men, to deliver them from the Mortality to which they were adjudged, and to restore them to Life at the Resurrection. [Which, next to a Life of Obedience in this World, is the first and fundamental Step in the Gospel-Salvation †.]

19. For

† According to our Saviour, *John vi. 39. And this is the Father's will, which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me, I should LOSE nothing* [should suffer nothing to PERISH. It is the same Word that is used *1 Cor. xv. 18. "Then they which are fallen asleep "in Christ, are PERISHED."*] *but should raise it up again at the last day. Ver. 40. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one that seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day. Ver. 44. No man can come to me, except the Father, which hath sent me, draw him:*
and

19. *For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners: so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

19. FOR as upon the account of one Man's Disobedience Mankind were judicially constituted Sinners, *i. e. subjected to Death* by the Sentence of God, the

Judge: So it is proportionably right and true, that by the Obedience of one, Mankind shall be judicially constituted righteous by being raised to Life again. [And not only so, but, according to my Argument, in the 15th, 16th, and 17th Verses, all Mankind have, at present, a Right to the ABOUNDING Grace of the Gospel, and upon their receiving, and duly improving it, to ETERNAL LIFE.]

Now we have gone over all the Places in Scripture, which do certainly speak of the
Confe-

and I will raise him up at the last day. Ver. 54. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. Rev. i. 18. I am he that liveth, &c. and have the keys of Hell [the Grave] and of Death. And the Apostles always suppose the *Resurrection from the dead* as a first and necessary Step to *eternal Life*.—It is of no Weight to object; — *But the Resurrection is no Benefit or Blessing to the wicked:* For no other Instance of divine Goodness is a *final* Benefit, or Blessing to the wicked. The Resurrection is revealed and assured as a Motive to Piety and Virtue; and it is our own great Fault if it turn not to our eternal Happiness.—*But to what Purpose are the wicked raised from the dead?*—To this the Wisdom of God will give a satisfactory Answer in that great Day.

Consequences and ill Effects of *Adam's Sin* upon us : Which Places I have explained to you, as plainly and clearly as I can, in the Integrity of my Heart, without any Design, Desire or Endeavour to cloak or smother, colour or dissemble, magnify or lessen any thing ; but have, to the best of my Power, shewn you every thing in it's true Light and full Strength.

THE Sum of all that we have found is this : *That upon the Sin of Adam God subjected him and his Posterity to Sorrow, Labour and Death ; from which Death we are delivered, and are restored to Life at the Resurrection, by the Grace of God having Respect to the Righteousness and Obedience of Christ. And furthermore, That God in Christ hath bestowed upon us Mercy and Gifts, Privileges and Advantages, both in this and a future World, abundantly beyond the reversing of any Evils we are subject to in Consequence of Adam's Sin.*

IT appeareth therefore, for any thing I can see, that the true Answer to this Question, *How far we are involved in the Consequences of Adam's Sin?* is this : *We are thereby, or thereupon, subjected to temporal Sorrow, Labour and Death.* All which (Thanks be to God for his unspeakable Gift !) are in the Redeemer turned into great Advantages, as to our present spiritual Improvements ; and at length

length we shall, if obedient to the Son of God, and sanctified by the Methods of Salvation established in him, not only be delivered from them all, but we shall also reign for ever with him in Glory.

BUT besides these five Places there are many others quoted by Divines as relating to this Affair, tho' in them no mention is made of *Adam*, or of any Effects that his Sin hath upon us. But having been long, and by many, taken in that Sense, they demand our Consideration, and you shall have my Thoughts upon them as Leisure admits.

NORWICH,

Novemb. 20.

1735.





A P P E N D I X.

THE foregoing Explications of *Rom.* v. 12. I hope, are in a good measure sufficient to clear the Apostle's Language and Argument. But there are still two Points which require further Illustration. One is ; *How is it consistent with Justice, that a whole Race should be subjected to Death by the Disobedience of one Man ?* The other ; *How shall we account for all Mankind's being made righteous, or restored to Life at the Resurrection, by the Obedience of another Man, JESUS CHRIST ?*

I. IN Answer to the first Query, we need not urge the absolute Right of the MAKER and LORD of all to limit the Existence of his Creatures as he pleaseth. JUSTICE will be abundantly vindicated, if it appear that GOODNESS is concerned in this Dispensation ; and that possibly God might propose *kind and beneficent* Ends, in that which is to us ungrateful suffering. And this will be readily allowed, if we consider that our gracious FATHER did not intend Mankind should

F finally

finally and for ever continue under that Death, to which they were subjected in Consequence of *Adam's* Sin. No. Immediately upon the annulling the first Covenant, he advanced a new and grand Scheme for restoring Mankind, and exalting them to eternal Life. And Death must be considered as transferred into this new and gracious Dispensation ; otherwise it will be inconsistent with it.

IN this View Death will be, upon the whole, a *Benefit* ; and we may account for all Mens being made Sufferers by the Disobedience of *Adam* in the Manner following.

THAT Judgment, which was pronounced upon *Adam* for his Sin, came upon all Men : Or, the Judge decreed, That the Sentence passed upon *Adam* should, as to the Things inflicted in themselves considered, light upon his Posterity. Just as if a FATHER, for some Irregularity in his first Child, should determine to lay a Restraint upon him either in Diet, Dress, or Diversions ; and at the same time should judge it expedient to make it a Rule with all the other Children he may afterwards have. In this Instance it is easy to see, how the *Judgment to Condemnation*, pronounced upon the Offence of the First-born, cometh upon the other Children, even before they are brought into the World, without any *Injustice*, nay, perhaps with a
great

great deal of *Goodness* on the FATHER's Part. Upon the first it is a proper *Punishment*: Upon the rest it cometh as wholesome *Discipline*. And yet *through the Offence of one* they are debar'd some Pleasures or Enjoyments. *By the Offence of one the Judgment to Condemnation cometh upon all the rest*: By one Child's Offence Restraint reigneth; and by one Child's *Disobedience*, the many, that come after him, are made *Sinners*, or Sufferers, as they are deprived of some Enjoyment which they might be fond of, but which the FATHER saw, every thing considered, would not be for their Good.

BUT how is *Death* a Benefit? I answer,

1. IN general to *all Mankind* Death is no small Benefit, as it increaseth the Vanity of all earthly Things, and so abateth their Force to tempt and delude; hath a Tendency to excite sober Reflections; to induce us to be moderate in gratifying the Appetites of a corruptible Body; to mortify Pride and Ambition; and to give a Sense of our Dependence upon God. And when Death at too great a Distance was not sufficient generally to gain these important Ends; when Mankind abused a Life prolonged to near a thousand Years to universal Excess and Violence, (*Gen. vi. 12, 13.*) God was pleased, after the Deluge, to

- vary this Dispensation, by shortning our Days, and gradually reducing them to threescore and ten, or fourscore Years. And if the corrupt Morals of the *Antediluvians* was the Occasion of this Reduction of human Life (as seems most probable) then it will be true, that as DEATH *entered into the World* by *Adam's Sin*, so the HASTENING of DEATH, or Shortness of Life, *entered into the World*, and *came upon all Men*, by the Sin of that vicious Generation; and by their *Disobedience* we are all again so far *made Sinners*: Not as a Punishment for their Sin; but, we may well suppose, in Mercy and Goodness: That the wild Range of Ambition and Lust might be brought into narrower Bounds, and have less Opportunity of doing Mischief, and that Death being set still nearer to our View, might be a more powerful Motive to regard less the Things of a transitory World, and to attend more to the Rules of Truth and Wisdom. - - Thus I judge of the present Shortness of Life. And we cannot err much, if at all, if we think that God, upon Occasion of *Adam's Sin*, appointed our Life frail, laborious and sorrowful, and at length to be concluded by Death, not to punish us for another Man's Sin, but to lessen Temptation, and to promote our spiritual Good: For in several Places the Scripture directly affirms, that Affliction and Suffering is the Chastisement of our heavenly FATHER; and particularly applies

plies our common Mortality to the forementioned good Purposes. See *Pfal.* xxxix, xlix, xc. *Ecclef.* i. ii, &c.

2. THE Occasion upon which DEATH was introduced into the World teacheth *those, who enjoy Revelation*, to form a just Idea of the odious and destructive Nature of SIN. No sooner did SIN commence in the human Race, but God was pleased to inflict DEATH upon Mankind, that we might always have before our Eyes a striking Demonstration, that it is infinitely hateful to God, and the Corruption and Ruin of our Nature. *The Wages of Sin is Death.* And it is true, when we see a dead Corpse, we see SIN REIGNING upon its Throne. And nothing is more proper than such a Sight to give us the utmost Abhorrence of all Iniquity, as being, however we are deceived to imagine it yields Pleasure and Enjoyment, the very Poison of our LIFE; and to fix this Thought in our Minds, that when we are committing Sin, we are ruining our Being, and sinking ourselves into eternal Perdition. [*Reader, think soberly of this.*] In this View, whenever we behold SIN in the Light of Revelation, we see DEATH at the same Time staring us in the Face. For with *Sin, Death*, as its deserved Attendant, entered into the World.

So much may suffice to shew, that while God, as sovereign LORD, subjected Mankind to Death; he might, as our FATHER, do it for Ends very kind and beneficent.

AND to propose a Variety of great and valuable Ends by one and the same Constitution, is the Property of consummate Wisdom and Goodness. Therefore still further; by this Dispensation the universal FATHER intended to display the glorious Riches of his Wisdom and Grace in the Recovery of Mankind to LIFE, eternal Life, by *the second Man, the Lord from Heaven*. Which leads us to the other Head of Inquiry; namely,

II. *How we shall account for all Mankind's being made righteous, or restored to Life at the Resurrection, by the Obedience of JESUS CHRIST?* To set this in a just Light, I shall direct your Thoughts to a similar Instance, under the same Rule of Truth, tho' not in the same Degree of Importance. It is in *Rev. v. 1, 2, &c. I saw in the right hand of him that sat upon the throne a book written within*, containing the mysterious Counsels of Divine Providence with regard to the Christian Church to the End of the World, *and on the backside sealed with seven Seals*, close shut up and concealed from all Beings, himself excepted, in whose Hand it was, *ver. 2.*
And

And I saw a strong Angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is WORTHY, who hath so great Interest in God, as to be judged worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? Ver. 3. But all stood silent, none in heaven or earth was able, could pretend to a Merit sufficient to open the book, neither to look thereon. Ver. 4. And I wept much at the sad Disappointment, because none was found worthy to open, and to read the book, neither to look thereon. Ver. 5. And one of the Elders said unto me, Weep not: Behold the lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, hath prevailed, hath a sufficient Interest with God to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. Ver. 6. And I beheld, and lo, in the midst of the throne, --- stood a lamb as it had been slain. --- Ver. 7. And he came, and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. Ver. 8. And when he had taken the book, the four living creatures, representing the Christian Church, and the four and twenty elders, representing Christian Ministers, fell down before the Lamb. --- Ver. 9. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art WORTHY to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.

Now, what was it that gave this glorious Personage, emblemized by the *Lamb*, his super-

rior WORTHINESS, his prevailing Interest in God beyond all others in Heaven and Earth? Evidently it was his *being slain*, and *redeeming us unto God by his blood*. That is to say, it was his OBEDIENCE to God, and GOOD-WILL to Men; it was his consummate VIRTUE. For observe, *The opening of the book*, as a *lesser Effect*, is compared with *redeeming us to God*, as a much greater Effect: And both are ascribed to the WORTHINESS of the Lamb, *as he had been slain*. *Thou art worthy to take the book, and open the Seals thereof*. Why? Because thou hast exhibited an Instance of Virtue, Obedience and Goodness equal to a much greater and nobler Effect: *For thou wast slain*, thou hast sacrificed thy Life in the Cause of Truth, in Obedience to God, and out of Love to Mankind, *and hast redeemed us*, dead in Trespases and Sins, *unto God by thy Blood*, by that Act of the highest Obedience, *out of every kindred and tongue*, &c.

THE WORTHINESS of *Christ* is his consummate VIRTUE. It is VIRTUE, Obedience to the Truth, or to the Divine Will, and Benevolence to his Creatures, that wins every Prize, that carrieth every Cause in Heaven. VIRTUE is the only Price which purchaseth every Thing with GOD. GOD wants neither Grace, nor Power to accomplish the best and greatest Effects. His
Good-

Goodness intended the *Seals* should be opened for the Benefit of the Church, nor did he stand in need of the WORTHINESS, the Good-will or Assistance, of any Being whatsoever to execute the Design. But it *becomes* him, the FATHER of the Universe, *Heb. ii. 10.* it is agreeable to his Wisdom and Goodness to devise all Methods of promoting Virtue: For of all God's Works intelligent Beings are the most excellent: And the highest Excellency of intelligent Beings, and even of God himself, is VIRTUE, or right Action. For which Reason, it highly becomes the universal FATHER and GOVERNOUR to make *every thing*, particularly the conferring of Benefits, subservient to the Increase and Spread of VIRTUE: It must be the noblest Exercise of his Wisdom and Goodness, and the greatest Benefit to the Universe, to form Schemes for exercising, exhibiting and illustrating the VIRTUE of all Beings, according to their several Ranks and Degrees, by honouring superior Virtue with the Donation of superior Blessings and Favours, and by making the Removal of Difficulties, unsurmountable to any but himself, depend upon some signal Act of Obedience, Goodness, Righteousness, or Fidelity. True VIRTUE, or the right Exercise of Reason, is true WORTH, and the only *valuable Consideration*, the only *Power* which prevails with God. It was not the mere natural Power or Strength of the Lamb,
but

but his Worthiness, his most excellent Character above all others, which made him *able* above all others, to take the mysterious Book and open its Seals. *Heb. i. 9. He loved righteousness in the most eminent Degree, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even his God, anointed him with the oil of gladness above his fellows.*

To apply this to the Case before us. *By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin.* Thus all Mankind were shut up in the Grave, the House of Darkness and Perdition. And the Keys of Grace and Power which alone could open it, and restore to Life were in the Hands of Almighty God. Now, had the strong Angel proclaimed with a loud Voice, WHO IS WORTHY, who in Heaven or Earth will stand forth, and undertake to exhibit a Character of Righteousness and Virtue, which shall render him WORTHY to take the Keys, open the Pit of Destruction, and restore Life to the numberless Dead? an universal Silence might be supposed to follow; none pretending to a Worthiness of Character equal to the grand Effect, or to the high Honours, which must attend the Accomplishment of it. If none were found in Heaven or Earth worthy to open the *Book* above-mentioned, much less the *Grave*. And what Showers of Tears might this have drawn from a benevolent Spectator? But weep not, Lo, the SON OF GOD interposeth, and refuseth

no Trial of Virtue, no Instance of Obedience and Duty, Condescension and Suffering, to purchase the Keys of the Grave. *Then, said he, Psal. xl. 7, 8. Lo I come, I delight to do thy will, O my God, yea thy law is within my heart.* He emptied himself of the Glory he had with the Father before the World was; *he was made flesh, took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, was in all points tempted as we are, under all Temptation exhibited a spotless Virtue, and, at last, became OBEDIENT unto death, even the death of the cross, the last Line, the finishing Stroke of Obedience, Phil. ii. 8. IT IS DONE.* And both the heavenly World, and the Christian Church resound with Acclamations; *WORTHY is the Lamb that was slain, (i. e. who hath performed the most surprizing Acts of Obedience) to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.* The arduous Work is done. Under the severest Trials he hath shewn the highest Regards to Truth; hath sacrificed his very Life and Soul to the Will of God, and the Happiness of his Creation; and is, by the universal FATHER, acknowledged the worthy Saviour of a World under the Dominion of Death. By the superlative Excellence of his Virtue and Goodness he hath purchased a general Resurrection. And though the Grave is not yet in Fact opened, the Keys of it are
put

put into his Hands. *Rev. i. 18. I am he that liveth, and was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore, --- and have the keys of Hell, of Hades, or the Grave, and of Death; i. e. I have the Power of unlocking the Grave, and of raising the Dead to Life. And thus he now triumphs. Hof. xiii. 14. O Death! I will be thy plagues; O Grave! I will be thy destruction. Thus, CHRIST hath abolished Death. Thus, God hath given us the victory over Death by Jesus Christ our Lord. Thus, as by man came Death, by man came also the Resurrection from the dead. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive. Thus, as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation: even so by the righteousness of one, the free gift came upon all men to justification of life. For as by one man's DISOBEDIENCE the many were made sinners; so by the OBEDIENCE of one shall the many be made righteous.*

BUT you may observe, thus far the GIFT is but as the OFFENCE; or, in this Respect, it reacheth no further than the reversing that Mortality to which we were subjected upon Occasion of *Adam's Sin*. But the Apostle assures us, by many emphatical Expressions, *Rom. v. 15, 16, 17, 20, 21.* that it hath SUPERABOUNDED, ABOUNDED beyond the Offence: and that GRACE is exalted to a superior and everlasting Throne. Which is

to be understood, I suppose, after this manner. The *Lamb that was slain*, who was obedient to Death, is, for that Reason, *highly exalted*, and *made Head over all Things to, or for* [the compleat Salvation of] *the Church*. Therefore, not only the Keys of *Death and the Grave* are put into his Hands, to release us from thence ; but also the Keys of his *Father's House*, to set out, and prepare everlasting Mansions for us. And now he can use that magnificent, and to us joyful Language, *I give unto mine eternal life, and they shall never perish. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.* Such is his supereminent Righteousness, and Interest in God, that he is WORTHY to exalt us to the highest Dignity of *Kings and Priests*, to set us upon Thrones of Glory and Power, and to fix us in the perpetual Honours of his heavenly Kingdom. SO FAR hath the Gift ABOUNDED beyond the Offence ! To such a prodigious Extent GRACE hath stretched her salutary Wings ! Behold, the Throne of SIN demolished ! Behold, the lofty and celestial Throne upon which GRACE reigns, *through Righteousness, unto ETERNAL LIFE by Jesus Christ !*

BUT it may very justly be further observed, that there is still a great Bar in the Way of Life, *viz.* the SIN in which the World is involved. Sin in its own unalterable Nature leadeth

leadeth to Death. *If we live after the flesh,* it is true, however we are *made righteous* as to the Consequences of *Adam's Sin*, and how worthy soever the Saviour be to introduce us into eternal Life, though we are rescued out of the Jaws of the *first Death*, and though the Doors of Heaven are set wide open, yet, *if we live after the flesh*, it is still true, *we SHALL die*; die the *second Death*, and be subjected to final Perdition.—But the Lamb is WORTHY and powerful to do whatever is fitting to remove this Obstacle also. Besides the Light given to all Ages and Nations of the World, sufficient for the Knowledge and Practice of their Duty, he received Authority to erect a new Dispensation furnished with a glorious Fund of Light and Truth, and all proper Means and Motives to deliver us *from all iniquity, and to purify us unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works*. While he himself is become *the High-priest of our profession*, and, as such, walks in the midst of the *golden Candlesticks*, or Lamps, representing Christian Societies, to inspect and trim them, to negotiate all Affairs relating to our present Purity, Strength, and Comfort, and to our future Happiness: No doubt he is the Patron of Goodness and Virtue round the Globe, But WE KNOW he compassionates our Infirmities, and are sure we shall never want Succour in any Hour of Temptation, if we desire it, and dispose ourselves to receive it.

While

While we follow him, not walking after the Flesh, but after the Spirit, *Sin shall not have dominion over us* ; neither shall any thing separate us from his love, being kept by his power through faith unto salvation. Thus the grace of God, which the Apostles preached to the World, and the gift by the grace of one man, *Jesus Christ*, hath abounded, Rom. v. 15. Thus, whereas the judgment was by ONE offence unto condemnation, the gift is of MANY, hath relation to our many offences, in order to our complete justification, ver. 16. For being made perfect through sufferings, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him. And the Apostle argueth, we may assure ourselves of the Truth of all this, from this Consideration, That if the OFFENCE of one Man was attended with an universal Subjection to DEATH, much more shall the Grace of God, planted upon so noble a Ground as the OBEDIENCE of the Son of God, extend its saving Influence to every intermediate Instance of Salvation, and at last to the Possession of ETERNAL LIFE.

R E F L E C T I O N S.

“ FROM the whole you may see how
 “ this glorious Display of the Divine Grace
 “ is by *Jesus Christ* ; by the SACRIFICE,
 “ the DEATH, the BLOOD, *i. e.* the perfect
 “ OBEDIENCE of *Jesus Christ* ; and how his
 “ Death

“ Death is *a Sacrifice and Offering for Sin of*
 “ *a sweet smelling Savour to God.* Nothing
 “ smells sweet in the Nostrils of infinite
 “ REASON and GOODNESS, but solid VIR-
 “ TUE, true GOODNESS, and upright OBE-
 “ DIENCE. *Christ's* Worthiness makes Atone-
 “ ment for Sin ; and his Worthiness is pro-
 “ perly such. 'Tis true WORTH and real
 “ Merit ; which is absolutely available to
 “ procure for us many and great Benefits :
 “ But is available to our *final* and *eternal*
 “ Salvation only so far as we imitate it. And
 “ true Christianity is practising Godliness,
 “ Sobriety, Righteousness, and Charity, in
 “ the Faith and stedfast Hope of eternal Life,
 “ which God hath given us in his Son *Jesus*
 “ *Christ.*

“ FURTHER, it is worth our while to
 “ observe, how both Dispensations, the En-
 “ trance of DEATH, and the Recovery of
 “ LIFE, are exactly calculated to promote
 “ Virtue, and to bring us to true Perfection
 “ and Happiness. DEATH entered through
 “ the Disobedience of *Adam*, to manifest the
 “ pernicious Nature of Sin, and to assist So-
 “ briety and *Goodness*. Death is abolished,
 “ and LIFE and Immortality granted thro'
 “ the OBEEDIENCE of *Jesus Christ* to de-
 “ monstrate, that Obedience to God, and
 “ Conformity to the Rules of Truth and
 “ Righteousness are the only Foundation
 “ of

“ of the divine Favour, and the only Source
 “ of Life and Enjoyment. Behold! the
 “ manifold Wisdom of God!

“ HERE also we see the true Grounds of
 “ the Homage and Gratitude we owe to our
 “ Redeemer. When, in virtue of his Wor-
 “ thiness, he took the Book in the *Revela-*
 “ *tion*, in order to open the Secrets of Di-
 “ vine Providence, Angels and Men, even
 “ the whole rational Creation, join their
 “ loudest Acclamations of Praise, Dignity
 “ and Glory to the Son of God. *Worthy is*
 “ *the Lamb that was slain*, &c. How much
 “ more should our Souls bow before him,
 “ and our Hearts exult with Joy, when we
 “ reflect that he hath in effect destroy'd Death,
 “ opened the Grave, and the Doors of the
 “ heavenly Kingdom! *Worthy is the Lamb*
 “ *that was slain to receive power, and riches,*
 “ *and wisdom, and strength, and glory, and*
 “ *blessing.*

“ AND when we know it was by his
 “ consummate *Virtue* and *Obedience* that he
 “ was esteemed *worthy* to bestow all the
 “ Means and Benefits of a compleat Sal-
 “ vation upon us, we ought to have this
 “ Persuasion established in our Minds, that
 “ *Truth, Virtue and Obedience, Righteousness*
 “ *and Goodness*, are of infinite Value in
 “ the Sight of God, and the *only Quali-*
 “ *fications*

“fications which can give us a real Dig-
 “nity and Excellence; can make us also
 “worthy to receive Power, and Riches, and
 “Wisdom, and Strength, and Glory, and
 “Blessing, according to our Measure. And,
 “remember well, for *this End* CHRIST
 “*sanctified himself, that we also might be*
 “*sanctified through the Truth*; that his Image
 “might be perfected upon our Temper
 “and Behaviour; and that in both we
 “might answer the Character of his Bre-
 “thren.

“LASTLY; As the Grace of God ad-
 “ministred by *Christ* hath triumphed over
 “*Sin* and *Death*, and made the most com-
 “pleat Provision for our Exaltation in eter-
 “nal Life, we are under the strongest Ob-
 “ligations to comply with the noble Schemes
 “and Designs thereof. Let us be wise then
 “to open our Understandings and Hearts
 “to the sweet and powerful Influences of
 “Divine Goodness, daily reading the Lessons
 “of his Wisdom and Love in the Scri-
 “ptures, approaching the *Throne of Grace*
 “by fervent Prayer, and using the Means
 “he hath appointed to grow in Faith and
 “Hope. That in the clear Views of im-
 “mortal Honour and Glory, we may live
 “above a corruptible Body, and a vain,
 “transitory World; may work all Righte-
 “ousness in Humility and Patience, in
 “Good-

“ Goodness and Charity, in Self-denial and
“ Temperance, in Truth and Honesty, in
“ Godliness and Devotion ; that having over-
“ come our present Temptations and Trials,
“ we may *fit down with CHRIST in his*
“ *Throne, even as he also overcame, and is*
“ *set down with his Father in his Throne.*

The End of the First PART.





T H E
Scripture-Doctrine
O F
O R I G I N A L S I N
P R O P O S E D T O
Free and Candid EXAMINATION.

P A R T II.

Wherein the principal Passages of Scripture, which have by Divines been applied in Support of the common Scheme of *Original Sin*, and have not already, in the foregoing Part, been discussed, are particularly and impartially examined.

ACTS viii. 30. *Understandest thou what thou readeſt ?*






THE
Scripture-Doctrine
OF
ORIGINAL SIN
PROPOSED TO

Free and Candid EXAMINATION.

PART II.

 O collect all the Places in Scripture that Divines have applied to ORIGINAL SIN would be endless. I shall therefore confine myself to the Account the ASSEMBLY OF DIVINES have given of it in their *Larger Catechism*, of which the *Lesser* is an Abridgment, and the Texts they quote to make good that Account. This I hope will be thought fair and unexceptionable, as such a select Body of learned and

judicious Men may well be supposed to have given us the precise Sense of the Article, and the main Evidence that can be produced from Scripture in Support of it. Their Sentiments you have in the following Propositions.

“ *Quest. Did all Mankind fall in that first Transgression?*” namely, of our first Parents?

“ *Answer.* The Covenant being made with *Adam*, as a publick Person, not for himself only, but for his Posterity, all Mankind descending from him by ordinary Generation [†], sinned in him, and fell with him in that first Transgression [†].

[†] *Acts* xvii. 26. [†] *Gen.* ii. 16, 17. compared with *Rom.* v. 12—20. *1 Cor.* xv. 21, 22.

“ *Q. Into what Estate did the Fall bring Mankind?*

“ *A.* The Fall brought Mankind into an Estate of Sin and Misery [†].

[†] *Rom.* v. 12. iii. 23.

“ *Q. What is Sin?*

“ *A.* Sin is any Want of Conformity unto, or Transgression of the Law of God, given as a Rule to the reasonable Creature, *1 John* iii. 4. *Gal.* iii. 10, 12.

“ *Q.*

“ *Q. Wherein consisteth the Sinfulness of*
 “ *that Estate whereinto Man fell?*

“ *A. The Sinfulness of that Estate where-*
 “ *into Man fell, consisteth in the Guilt of*
 “ *Adam's first Sin* ^w, *the Want of that Righte-*
 “ *ousness wherein he was created, and the*
 “ *Corruption of his Nature, whereby he is*
 “ *utterly indisposed, disabled, and made op-*
 “ *posite unto all that is spiritually good, and*
 “ *wholly inclined to all Evil, and that con-*
 “ *tinually* ^x, *which is commonly called Ori-*
 “ *ginal Sin, and from which do proceed all*
 “ *actual Transgressions* ^y.

^w *Rom. v. 12, 19.* ^x *Rom. iii. 10—20. Eph. ii.*
1, 2, 3. Rom. v. 6. viii. 7, 9. Gen. vi. 5.
^y *Jam. i. 14, 15. Mat. xv. 19.*

“ *Q. How is Original Sin conveyed from our*
 “ *first Parents unto their Posterity?*

“ *A. Original Sin is conveyed from our*
 “ *first Parents unto their Posterity by natural*
 “ *Generation, so as all that proceed from*
 “ *them in that Way, are conceived and born*
 “ *in Sin* ^z.

^z *Psal. li. 5. Job xiv. 4. xv. 14. John iii. 6.*

“ *Q. What Misery did the Fall bring upon*
 “ *Mankind?*

“ *Ans.*

“ *Ans.* The Fall brought upon Mankind
 “ the Loss of Communion with God ^a, his
 “ Displeasure and Curse, so as we are by
 “ Nature Children of Wrath ^b, bond Slaves
 “ to Satan ^c, and justly liable to all Punish-
 “ ments in this World, and that which is to
 “ come ^d.

^a *Gen.* iii. 8, 10, 24. ^b *Ephes.* ii. 2, 3. ^c *2 Tim.*
 ii. 26. ^d *Gen.* ii. 17. *Lam.* iii. 39. *Rom.* vi. 23.
Mat. xxv. 41, 46. *Jude* ver. 7.

“ *Q. What are the Punishments of Sin in*
 “ *this World?*

“ *A.* The Punishments of Sin in this
 “ World, are either inward, as Blindness
 “ of Mind ^e, a reprobate Sense ^f, strong
 “ Delusions ^g, Hardness of Heart ^h, Horror
 “ of Conscience ⁱ, and vile Affections ^k; or
 “ outward, as the Curse of God upon the
 “ Creatures for our Sakes ^l, and all other
 “ Evils that befall us in our Bodies, Names,
 “ Estates, Relations, and Employments ^m, to-
 “ gether with Death itself ⁿ.

^e *Eph.* iv. 18. ^f *Rom.* i. 28. ^g *2 Thes.* ii. 11.
^h *Rom.* ii. 5. ⁱ *Isai.* xxxiii. 14. *Gen.* iv. 13. *Mat.*
 xxvii. 4. ^k *Rom.* i. 26. ^l *Gen.* iii. 17. ^m *Deut.*
 xxviii. 15. to the end. ⁿ *Rom.* vi. 21, 23.

“ *Q. What are the Punishments of Sin in*
 “ *the World to come?*

“ *Ans.*

“ *Ans.* The Punishments of Sin in the
 “ World to come, are everlasting Separation
 “ from the comfortable Presence of
 “ God, and most grievous Torments in Soul
 “ and Body without Intermiſſion in Hell-
 “ fire for ever °.”

° 2 *Theſ.* i. 9. *Mark* ix. 44, 46, 48. *Luke*
 xvi. 24.

THESE Propositions and Proofs we are now to examine. Before we begin, let me intreat you to keep a ſtrict Eye upon your Bible as we go along. The Scriptures are the Rule of Faith. And it is my Buſineſs to point at the Light ſhining there; and yours to open your Eyes, and judge whether you have a true View of it. And whiſt we love the TRUTH, and honeſtly endeavour, all our Days, to underſtand what God hath revealed, whether the Knowledge we gain be more or leſs, we diſcharge the Duty of good Chriſtians, nor can we be defective in that Faith which is neceſſary to a religious Life, and the Divine Acceptance.

THE firſt Proposition before us is this;

PROP. *The Covenant being made with Adam, as a public Perſon, not for himſelf only, but for his Poſterity, all Mankind deſcending from him by ordinary Generation, ſinned in him,*

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him, and fell with him in that first Transgression.

SENSE. The Covenant here meant is God's promising Life to *Adam*, upon Condition of perfect Obedience, and threatening Death in case of Transgression; in which Covenant, it is supposed, his Posterity were so included, that when he sinned by eating the forbidden Fruit, they both *sinned in him*, and also became liable with him to the Penalty, or Suffering, which God had threatened.

PROOF. *Acts xvii. 26. And [God] hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; it follows, ver. 27. That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, &c.*

GOD hath made of one blood, from one common Original, namely, from *Adam*, all nations of men; that is to say, God hath made all the several Nations of the World of one Species, or Kind, endowed with the same Faculties, to inhabit the Earth, and hath exercised his Providence over them all in determining the times before appointed, (either the Seasons of the Year, or the various Dispensations and Conditions they were to come under)

under) *and the Bounds of their Habitation*, in order to display his Goodness, Power, and Wisdom, and to give them all proper Advantages for learning the Knowledge and Obedience of God, and for obtaining his Blessing.

Now, were this Text brought to prove, that, notwithstanding national Differences, all Men are of one Species, endowed with the same Faculties, furnished with Objects sufficient for seeking God, and under a Possibility of procuring his Favour, it might pass for a good and just Proof: But if it is designed to prove, that the Covenant was so made with *Adam as a public Person, not only for himself, but for his Posterity*; that he sinning, they also should *sin in him*; I must leave it to every Man to make out as he can; and shall only declare, for my own Part, I see nothing in the Text that intimateth any such thing.

PROP. -- *All mankind sinned in him, and fell with him in that first transgression.*

SENSE. When *Adam* sinned by eating the forbidden Fruit, all his Posterity both sinned in him, and also became liable with him to the Penalty, or Suffering, which God had threatened.

PROOFS. *Gen. ii. 16, 17. And the Lord commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat : But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it ; for in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die.* Compared with *Rom. v. from ver. 12, to ver. 20. Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. Ver. 18. Therefore as by the offence of one, judgment came upon all men to condemnation ; even so -- Ver. 19. For as by one man's disobedience, many were made sinners : so by the obedience, &c. -- And with 1 Cor. xv. 21, 22. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

THE Threatening, *Gen. ii. 16, 17. Thou shalt surely die*, is addressed to *Adam* personally. And therefore the *Assembly of Divines*, sensible that nothing can be concluded from thence with regard to *Adam's* Posterity, direct us to gather the full Sense of it from *Rom. v. 12—20.* and *1 Cor. xv. 21, 22.* But from those Passages we cannot gather, that *all mankind sinned in Adam* : (if we understand *sinning* as distinguished from *suffering* ; and so the *Assembly of Divines* here understand it.) For the Apostle strongly argues, That it was
the

the Offence of ONE, i. e. of Adam alone, considered apart from all other Men, which brought Death into the World. Consequently to say all mankind sinned in Adam, is not only to say what the Apostle doth not say ; but to say what he expressly contradicts. For had all mankind sinned in Adam when he sinned, then that Offence would not have been the Offence of ONE, but of MILLIONS.

NEVERTHELESS, though it cannot be true that *all Mankind sinned in Adam*, if we understand *sinning* as distinguished from *suffering* ; yet it must be true, that *Adam's Posterity so fell with him in his first Transgression*, that if the Threatening had been immediately executed, he would have had no Posterity. So far the possible Existence of *Adam's Posterity* did certainly fall under the Threatening of the Law, and into the Hands of the Judge, to be disposed of as he should think fit. And this may very well be taken for the Ground of the *Judgment to Condemnation coming upon all Men*. Only remember, we cannot from those Passages in the Epistles conclude, that Mankind, by *Adam's Offence*, were subjected to any other Evil, besides that Death which *all Men* die when they leave this World, and from which *all Men* shall be released at the Resurrection ; as I have before shewn at large.

PROP. *The Fall brought Mankind into an Estate of Sin and Misery.*

SENSE. The Fall, which happened to *Adam* by his transgressing the Law of God, reduced not only himself, but all that should hereafter proceed from him, into a State of Sin, and Suffering.

PROOFS. *Rom. v. 12.* This, I think, is already sufficiently explained.

ROM. iii. 23. *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

I. HERE is not the least Mention or Intimation of *Adam*, or any ill Effects of his Sin upon us.

2. THE Apostle speaks of the then State of the World with regard to both *Jews* and *Gentiles*, as he had described it in the first and second Chapters of this Epistle; where he proves that Men of all Nations had corrupted themselves, were exposed to the Wrath of God, and therefore stood in need of Gospel Grace for their Salvation. This will appear to any one who readeth those three Chapters carefully, beginning at *Chap. i. ver. 16.* And that the Apostle here refers to the large Account, which he had before given, of the
Corrup-

Corruption both of *Jews* and *Gentiles* is evident from *ver. 9.* of this Chapter ; *Are we* (*Jews*) *better than they* (*Gentiles?*) *no, in no wise : for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin.* And then he proveth it again upon the *Jews* (for the Difficulty was to convince them) by Quotations out of their own authentic Writings ; and concludeth (*ver. 20.*) that as all Nations had corrupted themselves, and were become guilty before God, they could not be justified by the *Deeds of the Law* ; but, *ver. 21, 22.* must be saved by the Grace of God, the Law-giver ; and that this Grace extended to all, both *Jews* and *Gentiles* ; - - - *unto all, and upon all them that believe ; for there is no difference.* *Ver. 23.* *For all, Jews as well as Gentiles, have sinned, and come short of the Glory, the Knowledge, Worship and Obedience, of God, by which he is glorified amongst Men.* No reasonable Person can doubt but that the Apostle here refers to what he had proved before in the first and second Chapters, *That Jews and Gentiles all are under Sin.* Which he proves, not from their being descended from *Adam*, or having any Share in his Sin and Guilt ; not from their being brought into a State of Sin and Misery by the Fall ; but he proves it by an Enumeration of particular, personal Acts of Wickedness, whereby Men of all Nations had blinded, debauched and corrupted themselves. This, I think, must

be clear and true. This Text therefore doth not prove, that *Adam's Sin hath brought Mankind into an Estate of Sin and Misery*. But, on the contrary, we learn from the Apostle's preceding Discourse, to which this Verse hath respect, that Mankind had brought themselves, by their own wicked Deeds, into a State of Sin, and were, upon that Account ALONE, liable to Wrath.

PROP. *Sin is any Want of Conformity unto, or Transgression of the Law of God, given as a Rule to the reasonable Creature.*

THIS Proposition having no immediate Relation to our present Design, I shall pass it by with only this Remark: That *any Want of Conformity* to the Law of God is Sin, only so far as any Creature is capable of Conformity to it. Ignorance, and the Absence of virtuous Action in an Infant is no Sin; because in that State it is incapable of it, through a natural Defect of Power.

PROP. *The Sinfulness of that Estate whereinto Man fell, consists in the Guilt of Adam's first Sin.*

SENSE. By *Adam's first Sin* all his Posterity fell into such a sinful Condition, that they became chargeable with the Crime or Fault of his first Sin.

PROOF. *Rom. v. 12, 19. Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. Ver. 19. For as by one Man's disobedience many were made sinners, &c.*

MAN's *sinfulness* consisting in the GUILT of Adam's Sin, is Language the Scripture nowhere useth : Nor can it be vindicated from these or any other Texts. For whereas Guilt always denotes the having committed a wicked Action, by which a Person becomes obnoxious to Punishment, it is evident our Sinfulness cannot, in the Nature of Things, consist in the Guilt of Adam's first Sin ; because as we could not possibly commit that Action in any Sense, so we could not, upon account thereof, become obnoxious to Punishment. That Adam's first Sin was attended with Consequences which affect all his Posterity, may, indeed, truly be concluded from *Rom. v. 12, 19.* But not as if we were involved in the Guilt of his Sin, or *punished* for it : But as God thought fit, that Death, which came upon him for his Sin, should at the same time pass upon all Men ; which Death, I have already shewn, is no other than that Death from which all Men shall be released at the Resurrection.

PROP. *The Sinfulness of that Estate whereinto Man fell consists in the Want of that Righteousness wherein he was created, and the Corruption of his Nature, whereby he is utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite unto all that is spiritually good, and wholly inclined to all Evil, and that continually.*

SENSE. The Position, *That Adam was created in Righteousness*, we shall wave at present. In the rest of the Sentence it is asserted, *That Man's Nature by Adam's Sin ALONE*, is become so sinful and corrupt, that Man, every Man, and all Mankind, are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all that is spiritually good; and wholly, and continually inclined to all manner of Evil, or Wickedness.

PROOFS. *Rom. iii. 10—20. As it is written, There is none righteous, no not one. Ver. 11. There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. Ver. 12. They are all gone out of the way, they are altogether become unprofitable, there is none that doeth good, no not one. Ver. 13. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Ver. 14. Whose mouth is full of cursing*

Psal. xiv. 1.
2, 3.

Psal. v. 9.

Psal. cxl. 3.

curfing and bitterness. Ver. 15. *Their feet are fwift to fhed blood.* Pſal. x. 7.
 Ver. 16. *Destruction and miſery are in their ways :* Ver. 17. *And the way of peace have they not known.* Prov. i. 16.
 Ver. 18. *There is no fear of God before their eyes.* Ver. 19. *Now we know that whatſoever things the law ſaith, it ſaith to them who are under the law ; [i. e. to the Jews :] * that every mouth [of the Jew, as well as the Gentile] may be ſtopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.* Ifai. lix. 7, 8.
 Pſal. xxxvi. 1.

THIS laſt Clause, *That every mouth may be ſtopped, and the whole world become guilty before God,* is the winding up, or concluding Force of his foregoing Arguments, with relation to both *Jews* and *Gentiles*. As I take it, the true Senſe of it is this : “ The Places which I “ have quoted out of the *Jewiſh* Scriptures “ do unqueſtionably ſpeak of wicked and “ corrupt *Jews*, ſo THAT by my Argumen- “ tation, taking in what I have advanced

* It ſhould be rendered, *So that every mouth is ſtopped, and the whole world is brought in guilty before God.* The Particle *wa*, *that*, here ſignifieth, *ſo that*. So, 2 Cor. i. 17. *What I purpoſe, do I purpoſe after the fleſh, wa, ſo that there is with me yea, yea, and nay, nay.* 2 Cor. vii. 9. *For ye ſorrowed after a godly ſort, wz, ſo that in nothing are ye hurt by me.* Eph. ii. 9. *Not of works, wa* *μὴτις καυχώμεθα*, *ſo that none can boaſt.* Rev. viii. 12. *He ſmote the third part of the ſun, &c. wz, ſo that the third part of them was darkened.*

“ concerning the *Gentiles*, every Mouth, or
 “ the Mouth of all sorts of People, *Jews* and
 “ *Gentiles*” (for he is speaking of them, not
 in a *personal*, but in a *national* Capacity ; for,
ver. 9. are we, Jews, better than they,
Gentiles ? is the Question under Considera-
 tion) by my Argumentation, says the Apostle,
 “ the Mouth of all sorts of People is stop-
 “ ed, and the whole World, *Jews* and
 “ *Gentiles*, is brought in, made *guilty*, or in-
 “ sufficient for their own Justification *before*
 “ *God* ; for I have proved, that there are
 “ Transgressors of God’s holy Law, among
 “ the *Jews* as well as among the *Gentiles*.”
 It is the same in Sense with that, *ver. 9. For*
we have before proved, both Jews and Gentiles,
that they are all under Sin. This being pre-
 mised,

Obj. I. IN this whole Section there is not
 one word of *Adam*, or of any bad Effects of
 his Sin upon us. And to suppose this under-
 stood, would be to build our Faith upon
 groundless Conjecture ; which must by no
 means be allowed.

Obj. II. THE Apostle is not, in this Section,
 speaking of all Mankind, but of a very small
 Part of Mankind, namely, the *Jews*, who
 alone were then *under the Law*, *Ver. 19.* And
 he is proving from those Places, in their own
 approved Writings, (which Places speak of,
 as

as well as *to*, the natural *Jews*) that there were very great Corruptions among them, as well as among other People.

Obs. III. THE Section consists of several Quotations out of the Old Testament, called here, *the Law*, ver. 19. But, (1.) in none of them, taken separately, doth the Spirit of God speak of any Depravity of Nature derived from *Adam*, but manifestly of the Habits of Wickedness, which Men had contracted by their *own* evil Doings ; as will, I think, undeniably appear, if you carefully peruse the Texts set over against the PROOFS in the Margin. And in *Psal.* x. 4. the Wickedness of the wicked is expressly said to consist in this, that he *WILL not seek after God* ; and that *God is not in all his Thoughts*. He might seek after God ; but he *will not*. He hath Thoughts, a Power to think of God, but he doth not use it. Again, *Psal.* xiv. 1, 2, 3. it is said, *ver. 2. God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God.* But how could the Divine Poet, with any Consistency, suppose this Looking and Expectation, if he knew that all Men, every Man, and all Mankind were, *NATURALLY* corrupted, and *utterly indisposed, disabled and made opposite unto all that is spiritually good, and wholly and continually inclined to all Evil* ? Had this really been the Case, how could God expect,

that Men, in a worse State than the very Brutes, should *understand, and seek*, i. e. worship and obey *him*? You will say; *They ought to have used the Means appointed for correcting natural Pravity*. I answer; Then the Sinfulness charged upon them is not that derived from *Adam*, but their own Non-improvement of Means. Not to say, that the supposed natural Pravity, by the Definition, must render Men utterly incapable of using Means for their Recovery to spiritual Life, seeing, by the Definition, they are thereby wholly inclined to all Evil, and consequently to nothing but what is evil. (2.) In none of those Places doth the Spirit of God speak of *all* Men strictly, of every Individual then living among the *Jews*; as if *there were none righteous* amongst them, no not one single Person; as if there were none at all *that sought after God*, none *that did good*; as if every Man's *mouth were full of cursing and bitterness*, and every Man's Feet *swift to shed blood*. This, I say, is not to be understood of every individual Man then living; but only of those of whom it was true, who might be great Numbers. For in those very Psalms where *David* in such strong Colours describes the Wickedness of some, he at the same time speaks of the good and virtuous, (who were then in the Nation) in opposition to these corrupt and vicious Persons. So *Psal. xiv. 5. There were they* (the Workers of Iniquity, probably in *Abfalom's* Rebellion)

Rebellion) in great fear ; for God is in the generation of the righteous. Here the Righteous, who were true to their Obligations, and under the Protection of God, are opposed to the Workers of Iniquity, the Rebels, whom he describeth, *ver.* 1, 2, 3 †, which shews there were Men at that time in the Nation to whom that bad Character did not belong. Again, *Psal.* v. 11, 12. Besides the wicked,
ver.

† The Persons the Psalmist generally complains of in the Book of Psalms, were a strong Party disaffected to his Person and Government. He frequently characterizeth them by his *Enemies*, *Psal.* v. 8. as proud and oppressive, *Psal.* x. as *devising mischief* against him, *Psal.* xxxvi. 4, 11. as *violent men continually gathering together for war*, *Psal.* cxi. 1, 2. Sometimes he chuseth to denote them by the *Sons* or *Children of men* ; as *Psal.* iv. 2. *O ye sons of men, how long will ye turn my glory into shame ?* *Psal.* lvii. 4. When he fled from Saul in the Cave, he complains, — *I lie among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears.* — *Psal.* lviii. 1. *Do ye indeed speak righteousness, O congregation ? Do ye judge uprightly, O ye sons of men ?* And in *Psal.* xiv. 2. liii. 2. when he saith, *God looked down upon the Children, or Sons of Men, to see if there were any that did understand and seek God ;* I make no doubt he means the same disaffected Party, who injured and oppressed his loyal Subjects, *ver.* 4. and are set in Contradistinction to the *Generation*, or *Party, of the Righteous*, *ver.* 5. This disaffected Party, which had greatly distressed and persecuted him before his Accession to the Throne, seem to have continued their Enmity in a violent Degree during the forty Years of his Reign. For the History of *Absalom's* Rebellion, which happened about eight Years before *David's* Death, shews what a bitter Spirit still remained, and prevailed in the Nation.

ver. 9. 10. there were many that *trusted in God*, who *loved his Name*, who were *righteous*, whom God would *bleſs*, and *compaſs with his favour as with a ſhield*. When he prayeth againſt evil and violent men, under *whoſe lips was the poiſon of adders*, *Pſal. cxl. 3.* he ſuppoſeth, ver. 13. there were at the ſame time *righteous Men*, that ſhould *give thanks unto the name of God*; *upright men*, that ſhould *dwell in his preſence*. The Mouths of ſome were *full of curſing, deceit and fraud*, *Pſal. x. 7.* but others, ver. 8. were the *innocent*, the *humble poor*, ver. 12, 14. who *committed themſelves unto God*, who *ſpread their deſires before God*, ver. 17. Too many were the wicked, who *had no fear of God before their eyes*, *Pſal. xxxvi. 1.* but ſome there were that *knew God*, and were *upright in heart*, ver. 10. *Prov. i. 16.* Solomon cautions his young Man againſt the profligate Wretches of the Age, who delighted in Robbery and Blood. [In which Advice, whether *Solomon* ſuppoſed the young Man, whom he counſelled, *utterly indiſpoſed, diſabled, and made oppoſite to all Good, and wholly and continually inclined to all Evil* BY NATURE, I leave you to judge.] The Prophet, *Iſai. lix. 7, 8.* ſeems to be deſcribing wicked and corrupt Magiſtrates. However it is evident that the *Pſalmiſt*, in any of the Places quoted from *him*, doth not ſpeak of every individual Perſon among the *Jews*, as if they were *all* wicked to a Man: I conclude

clude therefore, 1. That none of the Texts here quoted out of the Psalms have reference to any Corruption common to all Mankind, but only to such Wickedness wherein several of the *Jewish* Nation were involved, but with which sundry Persons were not chargeable; for sundry Persons are manifestly excepted, as not being corrupted in the manner he is speaking of. Which is a Demonstration, that the *Psalmist* cannot intend a Corruption of Nature derived from *Adam* to ALL Mankind. 2. I conclude, if the Apostle quoteth and argueth fairly, as I am persuaded he doth, such a general Corruption, as admits of no Exception, cannot be necessary to his Argument in the Place under Consideration. It must be sufficient to his Purpose, if great Numbers were wicked and corrupt. But this is not enough to establish the Proposition we are now upon. No Scriptures will do for that, but such as prove that *all* Mankind to a Man, *every single* Man over all the World, every Man that comes into the World, and as he comes into the World, is naturally corrupt, and by that Means *utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite unto all that is spiritually good, and wholly inclined to all Evil, and that continually*: And further, that this came upon Mankind by *Adam's* one Offence. But these Texts are very far from proving: For they directly and certainly prove no more, than that there were in those Times, even
among

among the *Jews* some, and sometimes great Numbers, that were wicked ; and therefore they do not serve the present Purpose.

THE next Proof is,

Ephes. ii. 1, 2, 3. And you hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins. Ver. 2. Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience. Ver. 3. Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past, in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh, and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath even as others.

1. NOTHING is here said, or intimated concerning *Adam*, or any ill Effects of his Sin upon us.

2. THE *Ephesians* were *Gentiles* converted to the Faith of the Gospel, and as such the Apostle writes to them, *ver. 11. Wherefore remember that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh. Again, Chap. iii. 1. I Paul, the prisoner of the Lord for you Gentiles.*

3. IN these Verses he is describing their wretched and deplorable State while they were in GENTILE DARKNESS, in order to illustrate

illustrate and magnify the Grace of God in calling them to the Knowledge and Privileges of the Gospel. The like Description you have also, *Chap. iv. 17, 18, 19. This I say therefore and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk in the vanity of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: who being past feeling, have given themselves over unto lasciviousness to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

4. WHEN he saith they were dead in *Trespases and Sins*, he plainly speaks of their own personal Iniquities, *wherein in time past* (before their Conversion) they WALKED according to the course of this world, according to the Instigations of the Devil, the prince of the power of the air, the spirit which possesseth and acteth all the children of disobedience, who rebel against God; amongst whom also we (putting himself with them, as the Apostle of the Gentiles) we, who are now converted to Christianity, all of us had our CONVERSATION, living, as the rest did, in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh, and of the mind. Most certainly he is not here speaking of their Fall in Adam; but of the Trespases and Sins in which they walked, and had their conversation, through the Darkness and Degeneracy of their Minds. And therefore,

5. WHEN

5. WHEN he addeth, *and were by nature the children of wrath*, he cannot mean, they were liable to Divine Wrath, or Punishment, by that *Nature* which they brought into the World at their Birth. This is infinitely absurd. For this Nature, whatever Infirmities it may be attended with, is no other than God's own Work and Gift. His *hands have fashioned and formed* us, every one of us. Certainly the Nature of every individual Man and Woman, that comes into the World, must come out of the Hands of God. And consequently the Nature of every individual Person, when brought into being, cannot but be just what the Wisdom and Goodness of God sees fit it should be. For that it should be what he judgeth it should not be, is utterly impossible, seeing it is his Power alone that fashions and forms it. And to say the Nature HE give us is the hateful Object of his Wrath, is little less than Blasphemy against our good and bountiful Creator. Men may pretend Self-abasement: But this is not to abase ourselves for our own evil Deeds, but to vilify the Donor of our Being, by vilifying his Work and Gift. Far was it from the Apostle's Thoughts to suggest any thing tending to depreciate our NATURE. His true Intent was to convince the *Ephesians* they were *Children of Wrath*, thro' the TRESPASSES and SINS in which they had WALKED. For he is
not

not speaking of their *Nature*, or the natural Constitution of their Souls and Bodies, as they came into the World ; but evidently of the vicious Course of Life they had led among the *Gentiles*. He well understood the Worth of the human Nature ; and, in other Places, shews it was endowed, even in the *Gentiles*, with Light and Powers sufficient to have known God, and performed Obedience to his Will. *Rom. ii. 14, 15. For when the Gentiles, which have not the written law, do BY NATURE*, [by their natural Powers of Reason and Understanding] *the things contained in the law, these having not the [written] law, are a law unto themselves ; which shew the work of the law written in their hearts.* This clearly supposeth, that the *Gentiles*, who were then in the World, might have done the Things contained in the Law *by Nature*, or their natural Powers. But they who do the Things contained in the Law, are not the Objects of God's Wrath, but of his Favour ‡. And again, *Rom. i. 19, 20, 21.* the Apostle affirmeth, that the *Gentiles* had Light sufficient to have seen God's eternal Power and God-head

‡ It is said, *1 Cor. ii. 14. the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God.* But the Word rendered *natural* is not in the *Greek* φυσικόν *natural*, but a very different Word, viz. ζωικόν *animal*. The animal Man, the Man who liveth the animal Life, who maketh Sense and Appetite the Law of his Actions, receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God.

head in the Works of Creation : And that the Reason why they did not glorify God was, because they *became vain in their Imaginations*, and darkened their foolish Heart ; *so that they were without Excuse*. Observe, he doth not say, their Nature was corrupted in *Adam*, and therefore they did not glorify God ; for then they would have had, I will not say a fair Excuse, but a just Reason for not glorifying God, seeing they would have been utterly incapable through no Fault of their own. But the true Reason why they did not glorify God was, because they had corrupted their own Nature ; and they were *without Excuse*, because their Corruption and Depravity was their own Act and Deed. Therefore by the strongest Evidence we are obliged to seek for some other Sense of the Phrase, *by Nature*, than that which relates to the Nature we bring into the World, the natural Constitution of our Bodies and Minds.

NATURE, among several other Things, frequently signifieth an *acquired Nature* ; a Nature which Men bring upon themselves by contracting either good or bad Habits. This might easily be demonstrated by numerous Quotations. But not to insist upon that, *by Nature* here may signify REALLY, PROPERLY, TRULY. For observe, *Τεχνα, Children*, strictly signifieth the genuine Children of Parents by natural Generation. But the Word

is also used figuratively, to denote Relation to a Person or Thing by way of Friendship, Regard, Imitation, Obligation, &c. As the *Children of God, of the Kingdom, the Bridegroom, the Resurrection, of Wisdom, Light, Obedience, Peace, &c.* Thus, *Children of Wrath*, are they who are related to Wrath, or liable to Rejection and Punishment. And whereas in those Days some were Children in a lower Sense, by *Adoption*, some in a higher, by *Nature*, or proper Generation ; the Apostle tells the *Ephesians* they were *by Nature* Children of Wrath ; that is to say, *Children of Wrath*, or related to *Wrath*, in the most real and proper Sense ; as he is a Child in the most real and proper Sense, who is one *by Nature*. Thus, 1 *Tim.* i. 2. he calls *Timothy*, his own CHILD, or *Son in the Faith* ; *γνησίου τέκνον*, his true, GENUINE SON ; not to signify he was the CHILD of the APOSTLE, or related to to him, by natural Generation (as the Words literally and separately import :) but that he was related to him in the *highest* and *strictest* Sense with regard to *the Faith* ; namely, as he was not a mere Professor, but a real upright Imitator of Apostolic Faith. In like manner the *Ephesians* are said to be *by Nature* CHILDREN (*τέκνα φύσας*, natural, GENUINE Children) of WRATH, not to signify they were related to *Wrath* by their natural Birth, or the natural Constitution of their Souls and Bodies ; but that they were related to *Wrath*

in the highest and strictest Sense with regard to *Sin* and *Disobedience* ; namely, not as they came under *Condemnation by the* (ΠΑΡΑΠΤΩΜΑ) *Offence of Adam* ; not as they were *made sinners by the disobedience of one man* * : But as they were *dead in their own, personal* (ΠΑΡΑΠΤΩΜΑΣΙ) *Trespasses and Sins*, ver. 1. and were actually *Children of Disobedience* themselves, ver. 2. By *Nature*, therefore, may here be a metaphorical Expression, borrowed from that which constituteth a true and genuine Child in a Family ; and consequently is not intended to convey the Idea of *Nature* in the proper Sense of the Word ; but to signify, that they were *really and truly* Children of WRATH, *i. e.* stood in the strictest and closest Relation to suffering. This I take to be the Apostle's true Sentiment. And he expresseth himself so strongly to convince them, that their being called to the Knowledge and Privileges of the Gospel, was not to be ascribed to their own Goodness above others, but to the free Grace of God ; which is the Point in View. See ver. 5, 8.

THE next Proof is,

Rom. v. 6. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

1. THE Apostle is here speaking not of Mankind in general, but of the *Gentiles* only ;
as

* Rom. v. 18, 19.

as will appear to any one who impartially views the whole Thread of his Discourse and Argument from the beginning of the Epistle, but especially from *Chap. iii. 9. What then? Are we, Jews, better than they, Gentiles? By no means.* For (he proves) a mere Law or Rule of Action was no Ground of Justification to either *Jews* or *Gentiles*, when both had violated it. In that Case nothing would do for either, but the Grace of the Lawgiver. This he argueth in Favour of the *Gentiles*, whom the *Jews* would have excluded from Salvation, without a formal Submission to the Law of *Moses*; adding, in the Conclusion, *ver. 29. Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the Circumcision, the Jews, by Faith, and the Uncircumcision, the Gentiles, through Faith.* Then having put in a necessary Caveat, *ver. 21.* which he had not then time to dwell upon, he advanceth a new Argument for the same Purpose, *Chap. iv.* in which he demonstrateth that the Way wherein *Abraham* was justified, was such as was in its own Nature open to *Gentiles*, as well as *Jews*, *ver. 11. That he, Abraham, might be the father of all them that believe, tho' they be not circumcised, i. e. tho' they be not Jews, but Gentiles, ver. 16. that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not to that only which is of the Law, i. e. to the Jews, but to that also which is of the faith of*

Abraham, (though among the *Gentiles*) *who is the father*, in a spiritual Sense, of us all, *Gentiles* as well as *Jews* : the Father of many Nations, ver. 17, 18. And it is written, ver. 23, 24. *that faith was imputed to him for righteousness, not for his sake alone, but for us, Gentiles, also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe, &c.* Having established the Point, that the *Gentiles* in *Christ*, have as good a Title to the Grace of God as the *Jews*, he proceeds, Chap. v. 1. *Therefore being justified by faith, we, Gentiles*, (putting himself with them, as being the Apostle of the *Gentiles*) *we, Gentiles, have peace with God*, i. e. are no more Enemies and Aliens ; ver. 2. *We have access into this grace, and rejoice* (it should be *boast*, by way of Comparison with the *Jews*, who *boasted in God*, Chap. ii. 17. and *boasted in the law*, ver. 23. The very same Word is used here :) *And we rejoice, we boast, in the hope of the glory of God.* Ver. 3. *And not only so, but we, Gentiles, glory, we boast* (it is still the same Word in the Greek) *in tribulations also, &c.* And, ver. 5. *the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, which is given unto us, Gentiles, which ye Jews confess is a Token of God's Love.* Ver. 6. For, and further (so it might be render'd) *and further Christ, when we, Gentiles, were without strength died for the ungodly, for us Gentiles, who were ungodly, without God in the world, Ephes. ii. 12. without the Knowledge and Worship of God.*
And

And *of*, and *to* the *Gentiles* he principally speaks to the End of the sixth Chapter ; where he turns himself to those *that know the law*, that is, to the *Jews*, Chap. vii. 1. and *to*, or *of* them, the *Jews*, principally he speaks to the end of Chap. xi.

No Man, I think, who maturely considereth the Subject the Apostle is now upon, and observeth the Thread and Connection of his Discourse, can doubt, that he is in this Verse speaking of the *Gentiles*, and the Grace of God to them, in Contradistinction to the *Jews*.

2. BY the same Argument, he considers the *Gentiles* in this Place, in a collective Capacity : not singly Man by Man, but in a Body, as distinguished from the Body or Nation of the *Jews*. For all along in the first, second, third, and fourth Chapters he speaks in this general, national Sense ; for instance, the *Circumcision*, and *Uncircumcision*, we *Jews*, and they *Gentiles*, as if he should say, we *Britons*, and they *Frenchmen*, we *Christians*, and they *Turks*. And as he is speaking of the same Subject in this Chapter, and in the same Respect, it must be allowed he speaks of the *Gentiles* under the same general, collective, Consideration ; not of the State and Condition of single particular Men, some of which were devout religious Persons, see

Acts xvii. 4, 17. but of the whole Body collectively.

3. IN this Verse he describeth the Condition of the converted *Gentiles* in their heathen State, when incorporated into the Body of the *Gentile* World, in which they *were without Strength*, unable to help and recover themselves; they were *ungodly*, living without the Acknowledgment and Worship of the true God; they were *Sinners*, ver. 8. *Enemies*, ver. 10 †. and how they were so, he describes in several other Places, as *Rom.* i. 18. to the end; *Ephes.* ii. 1 - - 13. *Col.* i. 21. and always makes their *Weakness* or *Deadness*, *Ungodliness*, *Sin* and *Enmity*, to consist in their own Wickedness and wicked Works, whereby they were alienated from God, and the Commonwealth of his *Israel*; but *never* in their being wicked, weakened and disabled in *Adam*: for where doth he ever say, or suggest any such Thing? Indeed, afterwards in this Chapter he doth discourse about the Consequences of *Adam's* Sin, but in a quite different Sense from this here of the *Assembly of Divines*. He advanceth, by the Way, a third Argument to

† That the Apostle here speaks to the *Romans* as *Gentiles*, Mr. *Locke* proves also from the four Epithets here given them. 1. *Weak*, or without Strength. 2. *Ungodly*. 3. *Sinners*. 4. *Enemies*; which he shews, from other Places, are the proper Attributes of the Heathen World. See *Locke* upon this Place.

to prove the Universality of Divine Grace in Christ, and that the *Gentiles* have an Interest in it as well as the *Jews*. For observe, his *first* Argument is the actual Wickedness of *Jews* as well as *Gentiles*, Chap. i. 16. to Chap. iii. 31. His *second* Argument is the Affair of *Abraham's* Justification, Chap. iv. to Chap. v. 12. His third Argument is, all Mankind's being subjected to Death through *Adam's* Sin, and being raised again in common to Life, through the Dispensation of God's Grace in a Redeemer, Chap. v. 12 -- 20. Those are the three great Arguments, which, as the Apostle of the *Gentiles*, he useth to demonstrate the Interest of the *Gentiles* in the Grace of God in *Christ*, as well as the *Jews*. And they are three very strong, cogent and conclusive Arguments. But neither in this Verse, nor in the whole Chapter, is there any thing which countenanceth this Assertion, That our Nature in *Adam*, and by his first Sin, is *utterly indisposed, disabled and made opposite to all that is spiritually good, and wholly and continually inclined to all evil*. Such an Assertion demands a very solid and substantial Proof. But truly I do not see how any Man can fairly deduce any such Meaning from the Apostle's Words. And the more clearly you see (and I think you may see very clearly) he is here speaking of the *Gentiles*, of the *Gentiles* not personally, but in a Body, as distinct from the *Jews*, and that he is describing them in

their *Gentile* State, as belonging to the Body of the Heathens; the more clearly you see these Things, the more will you be persuaded, that he is not speaking of all Mankind's being corrupted in *Adam*, and made wicked by his Sin: but of the *Gentiles* being corrupted, and blinded by the Ignorance, Idolatry and Wickedness, into which they had plunged themselves, and out of which they were unable to recover themselves, without the extraordinary Interposal of Divine Grace.

ANOTHER Proof is,

Rom. viii. 7, 8. *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

1. HERE is not one Word, nor the least Hint that carrieth our Minds to *Adam*, or any Consequences of his Sin upon us.

2. THE Words translated, *the carnal Mind*, το φρονημα της σαρκος, are, (observe well) the very same with those in the foregoing Verse translated *to be carnally minded*: and *to be carnally minded* is evidently, as in the Verse before that, (ver. 5.) *to mind*, [to choose, to follow] *the things*, [the Gratifications] *of the flesh*. The Verse therefore may thus be truly paraphrased:
 “ *Because the carnal mind*, that is to say, the
 “ *mind*ing, choosing, and following fleshly
 “ Gratifications

“ Gratifications, is direct Enmity and Opposition against God ; for such a Temper of Mind, given up to the Lusts of the Flesh, is in no Subjection to the Law of God, nor indeed can be, it having a quite contrary Tendency. So that, upon the whole, we may conclude, that *they who walk*, (ver. 1.) *they who are* (ver. 5.) *after the flesh, they who do mind the things of the flesh*, (ver. 5.) *that are carnally minded*, (ver. 6.) *that are in the flesh*, (ver. 7.) *cannot please God*, cannot be acceptable to him.” This is the plain and obvious Sense of the Text. And every Man must be left to see, how he can make it appear from hence, by any fair Deduction, that in *Adam*, and by, and for his first Transgression, *our Nature*, the Nature of all Mankind, *is utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all that is spiritually good, and wholly and continually inclined to all evil*. The Apostle affirms, the minding of fleshly Lusts is opposite to God ; but doth it therefore follow that in *Adam*, and by his Sin, our Nature is *utterly indisposed and disabled to all good, and wholly and continually inclined to all evil*? Where is the Consequence? The Apostle saith nothing at all about *Adam’s Sin*: And might he not affirm, that to be *fleshly minded is enmity to God*, without necessarily supposing that this minding of the Flesh is brought upon our Nature, not by our own wicked Choice,

Choice, or the corrupt Practices of the World, but through *Adam's Sin* ?

THE last Proof is,

Gen. vi. 5. where the Historian giveth the Reason why the Lord destroy'd the old World with a Deluge; namely, because (*ver. 5.*) *God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.* And below, *ver. 11.* *The earth also was corrupt before God; and the earth was filled with violence.* Mankind were universally debauch'd into Lust and Sensuality, Rapine and Injustice. This is plain and easy. But how any Man can conclude from the universal Wickedness of the old World, that our Nature is corrupted in *Adam*, I cannot see: For the Historian doth not charge their Sin any ways upon *Adam*, but upon themselves. *Ver. 12.* *And God looked upon the earth, and behold, it was corrupt: for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.* That Generation of Men had corrupted themselves. And how they had corrupted themselves he sheweth in the 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th *Verses*, namely, by *Seth's* Posterity, as it is commonly understood, intermarrying with the *Cainites*, which became the Occasion of a general Corruption; though not without an Exception; for, *ver. 9.* *Noah was a just man, and perfect in his generation, and walked with God.* He therefore

is manifestly exempted out of the Number of the corrupt and degenerate: but so he could not be, if the alleged Text is a good Proof, that by *Adam's* Transgression the Nature of *all* Mankind is corrupted. For in order to its being such a Proof, it should affirm that every Individual then living was involved in the Corruption of the old World.--- Further, the affirmed Corruption of Nature by the Fall, being supposed the same in all Ages, could not be a Reason peculiar to that Generation of Men, but would have been as good a Reason for the Destruction of the World at any other time. Whereas evidently, the Wickedness of *that Generation*, beyond any that was before it, is assigned as the Reason of the Deluge. Consequently this Text doth not speak of a universal Corruption of Nature by the Fall.

IT may be urged, That God said, *Gen. viii. 21.*—*I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth.* But observe the *Hebrew* Particle 'כ, which we render *for* in this Place signifieth *although*, as several learned Men have well observed, and our Translators themselves have so rendered it in the following Texts. *Exod. xiii. 17.* 'כ altho' *that was near.* *Jos. xvii. 18.* 'כ tho' *they have iron chariots, and 'כ tho' they be strong.* *2 Sam. xxiii. 5.* *although my house be not so, &c.* *Prov. vi. 35.*

vi. 35. 'פִּי tho' *thou givest many gifts*. Jer. iv. 30. 'פִּי tho' *thou clothest, &c.* 'פִּי tho' *thou deckest, &c.* 'פִּי tho' *thou rentest, &c.* Hab. iii. 17. 'פִּי although *the fig-tree, &c.* Zeck. ix. 2. 'פִּי tho' *it be very wise*. And so it should have been rendered here. *I will not curse the ground any more for man's sake; although the imagination of man's heart should be evil from his youth* *. That is, although he should fall into the last Degree of Corruption; meaning, that he would use other Methods of Reformation for the future.

R E F L E C T I O N S.

“ THESE Texts are brought to prove, *that*
 “ *Man's Nature by Adam's Sin is so corrupted,*
 “ *that Man, every Man, all Mankind, are ut-*
 “ *terly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to*
 “ *all that is spiritually good; that is, to all moral*
 “ *Actions pleasing and acceptable to God,*
 “ *and wholly, and continually inclined to all*
 “ *manner of Wickedness.* It seemeth to me
 “ clear and certain that they prove no such
 “ thing.

* This, I conceive, is a Phrase signifying the Greatness and long Duration of a Thing. *Psal. lxxxviii. 15. I am afflicted and ready to die from my youth: while I suffer thy terrors, I am distracted.* *Isai. xlvii. 12. Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth.* *Alfo, ver. 15. Jer. iii. 24. For shame hath devoured the labour of our fathers from our youth.*

“ thing. And if they did, they would prove
“ the two following Propositions :

“ 1. THAT *Men are no moral Agents.*
“ For if we are *quite disabled and opposite to*
“ *Actions spiritually good, and wholly and con-*
“ *tinually inclined to all Evil*, how are we moral
“ Agents ? How are we capable of perform-
“ ing Duty ? or of regulating our Actions by
“ a Law commanding Good, and forbidding
“ Evil, if our Minds, in their natural Con-
“ stitution, as they come into the World,
“ are set and bent to nothing but what is evil ?

“ 2. THAT *Sin must be natural to us.* And
“ if *natural*, then *necessary*, with regard to
“ *us* ; and if necessary, with regard to *us*,
“ then *no Sin*, with regard to *us*, or so
“ far as *we* are concerned in it. What is
“ natural to *us*, as the Passions of Hunger
“ and Thirst, or the Frailty of our Bodies,
“ we can by no means help or hinder : And
“ what we can by no means help or hinder,
“ is not *our Sin*. Therefore Sin is not natu-
“ ral to *us*, and therefore I shall not scruple to
“ say, this Proposition in the *Assemblies Cate-*
“ *chism* is false †.”

THE

† I desire it may be observed that I have no Design to asperse the Memory of the *Assembly of Divines*, either here or in any other Part of the Book. 'Tis my Opinion they were a Body of Men not inferior either in Understanding or Integrity to any in those Days. They
were

THE next part of the Proposition is this;

PROP.—*Which is commonly called Original Sin, from which do proceed all actual Transgressions.*

SENSE. That is to say, all the Transgressions which have been, or shall be, in the World do proceed from our Nature's being corrupted in *Adam*, and by his first Sin.

PROOFS. *Jam. i. 14, 15. But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

THAT is to say, “ Every Man is tempted
 “ [effectually, is overcome by Temptation]
 “ when he is drawn away by his OWN Lust,
 “ when he suffereth himself to be governed
 “ by his OWN irregular Desires, and enticed
 “ into vicious Practices. Then when Lust hath
 “ conceived, is come to a full Purpose, Power
 “ and

were not the AUTHORS of the Doctrine we are examining. No; it had been professed and established in the Church of ROME many Ages before the *Assembly of Divines* were in being. And the Proofs they use were such as had been, I suppose, commonly applied by learned Men to the same Purpose.

“ and Maturity in the Heart, *it brings forth Sin ; and Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth Death, or Destruction.*”

THE original Cause of Sin is a Man's choosing to follow the Appetites of the Flesh : and its dreadful End is Destruction. But how, I pray, doth it appear from this Place, that all Transgression and Wickedness proceedeth from our Nature's being corrupted, &c. by *Adam's* one Sin ? Certainly the Apostle neither affirmeth nor intimateth any such thing ; but chargeth the Wickedness of Men upon its proper Cause, namely, their being drawn away and enticed by *their own Lust*. If you say, *that Lust proceeds from Original Sin* ; I ask, Whence then proceeded the Lust of our first Parents ? For *Eve* saw that the forbidden Fruit was pleasant to the Eye, and to be desired to make one wife : and, accordingly, she indulged those irregular Desires, and did eat. What was the Cause of *her Lust, her irregular Desire, or Inclination* ? Shall we feign an *Original Sin*, a prior Corruption of Nature for her, as we have done for ourselves ?

ANOTHER Proof is,

Mat. xv. 19. *For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murthers, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.*

THAT

THAT is, (taking in the Context,) “ Wickedness proceedeth not from any kind of Food received into the Body, but from the Heart and Mind.” Very good. But what hath this Text to do with *Adam’s Sin*, or any ill Effects it hath upon us?

R E F L E C T I O N S.

“ NEITHER of these Texts prove that *Adam’s first Sin* is the Cause of all the Wickedness we commit; or, which is the same thing, that all our Wickedness proceeds from our being corrupted, or made wicked by *Adam’s first Sin*. And whoever taketh them in this Sense, manifestly mixeth the Forgery of his own Imagination with the Truth of God.

“ FURTHER, if all actual Transgressions, all Transgressions that have been, are, or shall be in the World, proceed from *Adam’s first Sin*, then in effect *Adam* sinned all the Sin that hath been, is, or shall be in the World, and he is the only guilty Person that ever lived in it. For if our Sins proceed from his, his Sin is the Cause of ours; and the Cause of every Effect is alone chargeable with the Effect it produceth, or which proceedeth from it.

“ AGAIN,

“ AGAIN, Upon these Principles, all
“ actual Transgression, or all the Sin that
“ hath been, is, or shall be in the World,
“ proceedeth from *Adam's* Sin, either by ne-
“ cessary Consequence, (as the *Assembly of*
“ *Divines* seem to suppose, in affirming, that
“ through *Adam's* Sin we are *utterly indis-*
“ *posed to all Good, and wholly inclined to all*
“ *Evil*) or through the Choice of our Wills,
“ or partly by the one, and partly by the
“ other. If by necessary Consequence in the
“ whole, or in part, then all the Sin that
“ hath been, is, or shall be in the World,
“ is no Sin at all, either in the whole, or in
“ part : for what proceedeth necessarily, so
“ far as it proceedeth necessarily, can be no
“ Sin : for whatever is necessary, whatever
“ cannot be helped, before it comes to pass,
“ is no Sin ; because no body can be blamed
“ for it, or however they cannot be blamed
“ for it, who could no ways hinder its com-
“ ing to pass. If you will say that actual
“ Transgression proceeds from *Adam's* Sin,
“ through the Choice of our own Wills ;
“ and that without the Choice of our Wills,
“ it would not proceed from *Adam's* Trans-
“ gression ; then it follows, that the Cause
“ of Sin is the Choice of our Wills, and not
“ its proceeding from *Adam's* first Trans-
“ gression ; seeing, upon this Supposition, it
“ would not proceed from it, did we not
K “ choose

“ choose it : That is to say, Sin proceedeth
 “ from our OWN CHOICE, as it necessarily
 “ must, and not from *Adam's* Transgression.
 “ And yet Men have dared to charge even
 “ our blessed Lord himself, who is the
 “ TRUTH, with affirming what I take to
 “ be a most palpable and dangerous Error,
 “ that all the Wickedness that hath been or
 “ shall be in the World, proceeds from *Adam's*
 “ first Transgression. Whereas he manifestly
 “ saith, that all Wickedness proceedeth from
 “ our own Hearts ; from our own Choice
 “ and Inclination.”

PROP. *Original Sin is conveyed from our first Parents to their Posterity, by natural Generation, so as all that proceed from them in that Way, are conceived and born in Sin.*

SENSE. It is by natural Generation, by one Man's being a Parent to another, that *Original Sin* is continued in the World, and communicated from one Man to another ; and this so surely and universally that every Man, (excepting the Lord *Jesus Christ*) is not only *born*, but even *conceived* in Sin, *i. e.* hath even *then*, in Conception, and *by that Mean*, a Nature so corrupt, that he is thereby utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all that is spiritually good, and wholly inclined to all Evil. If any thing more is meant by being *conceived in Sin*, I confess I do

do not understand it. However less than this cannot be intended upon the Principles we are examining.

PROOFS. *Psal. li. 5. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

TRANSLATORS, I judge, have carried the Sense of this Text quite beyond the *Psalmist's* Intention. The Word חוללתי which we translate *shapen*, signifieth to *bring forth*, or to *bear*. *Isai. li. 2. Look—unto Sarah החוללנך that bare you.* *Prov. viii. 24. When there was no depth, חוללתי I was brought forth.* *Ver. 25. —Before the hills was I brought forth.* And so here: *Behold I was brought forth, or born in iniquity.*

AGAIN; The Word יִחַמְתִּי, *conceived me*, properly signifieth, *warmed me*. The following are all the Places in the Bible, where it is used as a *Verb*. *Gen. xxx. 38. --- he set the rods --- before the flocks in the gutters--- ויחמנה that they should conceive when they came to drink.* It is applied to the same Case, and translated *conceive*, *ver. 39, and 41. and also, Chap. xxxi. 10.—Deut. xix. 6. Left the avenger of blood pursue the slayer, while his heart יִחַם is hot.* *1 Kings i. 1. Now king David was old, ---and they covered him with clothes, ולא יחם לו but he gat no Heat.* And then the Place before us, *Psal. li. 5. Then Eccles. iv. 11.*

Again, if two lie together they have חם Heat ; but how can one חם be warm alone ? Isai. lvii. 5. חם חם inflamming yourselves with idols, &c. Ezek. xxiv. 11. Then set it empty upon the coals thereof, that the brass of it חם may be hot.

THESE are all the Places where it is used in the Form of a *Verb*. It is often used in the Form of a *Noun*, and signifies *Wrath*, *Indignation*, *Fury*, which is the *Heat* of the *Mind*; and so we say in *English*, *he is hot*, or *in a great Heat*.

THE original Force of the Word is *to be hot* ; and it is applied to CONCEPTION ; RESENTMENT ; to WARMTH, by which the Body is nourished ; to IDOLATORS in love with Idols ; to the Heat of METAL. The Heat of RESENTMENT, of IDOLATORS, and of METAL, are evidently foreign to the Purpose. To CONCEPTION it is no where applied, but in Gen. xxx. 38, 39, 41.--xxx. 10. But the Sense it hath there will by no means suit the Place under Consideration. [*Ibi enim ad brutorum animantium coitum adhibetur. Neque enim proprie Conceptionem denotat, (quanquam in versione manibus vulgi terenda, & publice legenda, ea vox non male usurpatur) sed eum ardorem quo animalia ad coitum stimulantur ; vel, si maxis, ipsum cocundi actum. Hoc nulli attente loca ipsa consideranti dubium esse potest.* Gen. xxx. 38. Quum venirent pecudes ad biben-

bibendum, e regione pecudum [collocabat baculos] ut INCALESCERENT [*rectius*, nam incalescebant] venientes ad bibendum. *Ita vertunt Jun. & Tremel. de calore coitus recte intelligentes. Quibus suffragantur Pagninus & Montanus in margine versionis interlinearis, ad Verbum INCALESCEBANT, bis adnotantes, COIRENT, COIBANT. Septuaginta quoque interpretes Verbo ἐγμιαζω, coitum appeto, in hoc loco vertendo utuntur.* Similiter in versibus sequentibus. *Ver. 39.--- Ita INCALESCEBANT pecudes ad baculos illos, &c. Ver. 41. Evenit autem quodcumque INCALESCEBANT pecudes compactae corpore; ut poneret Jahakob virgas illas ante oculos istarum pecudum in canalibus: ut INCALESCERENT ipsae ad baculos illos.---Cap. xxxi. 10. Fuit autem quo tempore INCALESCUNT pecudes, ut attollens oculos meos viderem per somnium; ecce autem hircos istos qui pecudes ineunt, varios cruribus, punctulis respersos, &c. Satis manifestum est Verbum כָּוַי hic non concipiendi actum sed coeundi calorem significare. Quem calorem eleganter Esaias ad scortationem spirituales idolatrarum transfert: De hoc vero incalescendi genere loqui Davidem nemo sanus existimare potest. Matrem enim incaluisse, aut ipsum calefecisse, eo modo quo incalescerent Jacobi pecudes, Regem dicere, prorsus indecorum & absurdum. His adde, quod conceptio humana nunquam per כָּוַי, semper per הָרָה in sacris*

libris effertur. Haec autem ideo latinitate donavi, ut castis parcerem auribus.]

THEREFORE only the WARMTH, by which the Body is nourished, remains ; and of this, I make no doubt, *David* here speaketh. The Expression conveyeth the Idea, not of his being *conceived* but, of his being *warmed, cherished, or nursed* by his Mother after he was born. And then the Verse will run thus ; *Behold I was born in iniquity, and in sin did my mother nurse me.* Which hath no Reference to the original Formation of his Constitution ; but is a Periphrasis of his being *a Sinner from the Womb* ; and is as much as to say, in plain Language, *I am a great Sinner ; I have contracted strong Habits of Sin.*

FOR that this is a scriptural, figurative Way of aggravating Wickedness is evident. See *Psal. lviii. 3. The wicked are estranged from the womb, they go astray as soon as they are born, telling lies.* That is, my unjust Persecutors in *Saul's Court* are exceedingly wicked, corrupt and false, addicting themselves to Lies and Calumnies, and other vicious Courses. *Isai. xlviii. 8: And wast called a transgressor from the womb.* That is, a very heinous Offender, set to Iniquity by prevailing Habits and Customs. This is spoken of the House of *Jacob*, a national Body ; which sheweth
it

it is a proverbial Speech applicable to Communities, as well as single Persons.

ON the other hand, it is also used to signify early and settled Habits of Virtue, as *Job xxxi. 18. For from my youth he* [the Fatherless] *was brought up with me, and I have guided her* [the Widow] *from my mother's womb.* And probably it is of the same Import, *Isai. xlix. i. The Lord hath called me from the womb, from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name:* and in other places.

THESE Texts make the *Psalmist's* Meaning evident, when he saith, *I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me:* Or more justly, *I was born in iniquity, and in sin my mother nursed me.* For who sees not, 'tis an hyperbolical Form of aggravating Sin, whereby he loadeth himself, and strongly condemneth the Impurity of his Heart, and the Loose he had given to his own unlawful Inclinations? But he no more designed to signify that by *natural Generation* he had a Nature convey'd to him utterly indisposed, disabled, and opposite to all that is spiritually good, and wholly inclined to Evil, than he intended to signify, strictly and properly, that the Wicked are estranged from the Womb, and tell Lies as soon as ever they are born: or than *Job* designed to signify that he was born with the

Habits of Virtue, and had been a Succour and Guide to the Widow from the very Moment he came from his Mother's Womb. We easily see the Sense in these two last Places; and what hinders but we may as clearly see the same Sense in a like Phrase in the Text under Consideration? Shall we indulge unreasonable Prejudices in the Face of the brightest Scripture-evidence?

BUT however you understand the Text, you cannot take it in the *literal* Sense; nor have you any manner of Ground to conclude, that it relateth to *Adam's* Sin. For,

1. IN the whole Psalm there is not one Word, nor Hint about *Adam*, or the Effects of his Sin upon us.

2. IT is plain beyond Doubt, that the *Psalmist* is charging himself with his own Sin; confessing and lamenting his own personal Wickedness before God.

3. BUT if we take the Words in the *literal* Sense of our Version, then is it manifest, that he chargeth not *himself* with his Sin and Wickedness, but *some other Person*. For if he WAS SHAPEN IN INIQUITY, we all know he did not shape himself: and if he was CONCEIVED IN SIN, that he did not conceive himself. Therefore, if the Words be
thus

thus understood, who sees not, that the *Psalmist* throws the whole Load of his Iniquity and Sin from off himself upon another? And upon whom? --- Upon *him* that shaped, and upon *her* that conceived him.---And who shaped him?---Certainly *GOD*, his and our Creator. And this *David* understood perfectly well. For he confesseth, *Psal. cxix. 73. Thy hands have fashioned and formed me. And Psal. cxxxix. 13--16. For thou hast possessed my reins, thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.---My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lower parts of the earth; i. e. of his Mother's earthly Body. Thine eyes did see my substance yet being unperfect, and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.---Now if God shaped him in the Womb, and if he was then, and there shapen in Iniquity, pray, tell me, By whom was he shapen in Iniquity? Or to whom must his Sinfulness be attributed? Or how could he with Pleasure reflect upon his Formation, or praise God, that he was *fearfully and wonderfully made*, if he was made in *Iniquity*, in the most miserable and unhappy Condition; shapen and formed with a corrupt Nature, utterly indisposed, disabled, and opposite to all spiritual Good, and inclined to all Evil? And how can this be reconciled with what follows?*

Ver. 6.

Ver. 6. Behold, thou desirest Truth, or it is thy Will that we should have Truth in the inward parts : and in the hidden part thou hast made me to know wisdom. For so it should be read, referring to the Sense of Truth which God had given *David*, and which, had he attended to it, would have directed him to a better Conduct. As if he had said, “ I am amazed
 “ at my Folly, that I should be so careless ;
 “ when I was not ignorant that Thou re-
 “ quirest us, not to entertain, with the least
 “ Kindness, those first Motions which we find
 “ in our Thoughts and Desires after any
 “ Evil ; but uprightly to oppose them : For
 “ which end Thou hast put a Principle of
 “ better Motions into us, and indued me
 “ with Wisdom ; which secretly checks
 “ and corrects those brutish Inclinations.”
 [Dr. *Patrick's* Paraphrase.]

THE Inconsistency arising from the former part of the Verse is so glaring, that it is needless to insist upon the Absurdity of charging his Sin, or Sinfulness, upon his *Mother* who conceived him.

BUT if, after all, you will adhere to the literal Sense of this Text for the common Doctrine of *Original Sin*, shew me any good Reason why you ought not to admit the literal Sense of that Text, *This is my Body*, for *Transubstantiation* ? Will you say, it is absurd

to suppose *Christ* speaks of his real, natural Body? And, I say, it is absurd to suppose the *Psalmist* means his being really and properly *shapen in Iniquity, and conceived in Sin*. Will you say, the Sense of, *This is my Body*, may be clearly explained by other Scriptures, where the like Forms of Speech are used? And, I say, and have shewn, that the *Psalmist's* Sense may as clearly and evidently be made out by parallel Texts, where you have the like kind of Expression. Will you say, *Transubstantiation* is attended with Consequences hurtful to Piety? And I will say, so is the common Doctrine of *Original Sin*. For it is a Principle apparently leading to all manner of Iniquity, to believe *Sin is natural to us*, that it is interwoven and ingrafted into our very Constitution, from our Conception, and Formation in the Womb.

THE next Proof is,

Job xiv. 4. *Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one.*

JOB is here speaking of the common Frailty and Weakness of our Nature, not with regard to SIN; but to the Shortness and Afflictions of Life. Ver. 1. *Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.* Ver. 2. *He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.* Ver. 3.
And

And dost thou open thine eyes upon such a one, already so feeble and wretched, and bringest me into judgment with thee, to add extraordinary Calamities to a transitory, perishing Life? Ver. 4. Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one. 'Tis a Sentence of the proverbial kind, and used to signify, that “nothing can be more perfect than its Original*.” And therefore, as it suits all like Cases, must be understood according to the Subject to which it is applied. Here it evidently stands in relation to our Mortality. As if he had said; Man is born of a Woman: We spring from a mortal Stock, and therefore are frail and mortal. Then he goes on representing, not the Sinfulness but, the Mortality of human Nature. *Ver. 5. Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months with thee, -- 6. Turn from him that he may rest, &c. -- 7. For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. -- 8. Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, -- 9. yet through the scent of water it will bud. -- 10. But man dieth and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he? -- 11. As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up: -- so man lieth down, and riseth not, till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.*

I F

* Dr. Patrick's Paraphrase.

IF it is urged, that, *ver. 3.* *Job* speaks of his being brought *into judgment with God*; that this must be for Sin, and therefore, *ver. 4.* *Who can bring a clean thing, &c.* must be understood of natural Pravity: I answer; tho' *Judgment* do relate to Sin, yet he is arguing against being brought into Judgment, not from any supposed natural Pravity, but evidently from the already weak and mortal State of Mankind. But should it be allowed to refer to the supposed natural Pravity, it would prove too much to serve the common Scheme of *Original Sin*: For it would prove natural Pravity is so far from rendering us fit Subjects of Wrath, that it may be urged as a Reason why God should not bring us into Judgment with him. *Dost thou open thine eyes upon such an one, and bringest me into judgment with thee? Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean?*

ANOTHER PROOF is,

Job xv. 14. *What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous? Born of a Woman,* is the Periphrasis of a Man, or it signifieth no more than a Man. *Mat. xi. 11.* *Verily I say unto you, among them that are born of women, i. e. among Men, there hath not risen a greater Prophet than John Baptist. Born of a Woman,* is the same as a Man. The Phrase indeed

con-

connoteth and includeth Frailty and Imperfection ; but is not to be understood as the proper Reason, why Man is unclean and unrighteous, neither in this Proof, nor that which goeth before it, *Job* xiv. 4. For observe well, *Job* and his Friends use this manner of Speech in other Places of this Book, as *Job* xxv. 4. *How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman?* And *Job* iv. 17. *Shall mortal man be more just than God? Shall a man be more pure than his Maker?* Thus they speak of human Imperfection. Now, if the true and only Reason of the Uncleanneſs and Imperfection, they speak of, had been our deriving and receiving a Nature corrupted by *Adam's* Sin alone, and no other Way ; and if *Job* and his Friends had known and believed this ; then they ought, in Reason and in Truth, to have given this as the only and true Reason of the human Imperfection and Uncleanneſs which they mention. But instead of this, they turn our Thoughts to a quite different Reason, namely, the Uncleanneſs and Imperfection of the highest and best of Creatures in Comparison with God. This is evident. See *Job*. xxv. 4.--*How can he be clean that is born of a woman?* Ver. 5. *Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not, in Comparison of his Excellency ; yea, the stars are not pure in his sight.* Ver. 6. *How much less man, that is a worm : and the son of man, which is a worm?*

Job

Job iv. 17.--*Shall a man be more pure than his Maker?* Ver. 18. *Behold, he puts no trust in his servants; and his angels he chargeth with folly.* “The heavenly Ministers themselves
“ may fail; for they are not perfectly wise,
“ though they have no Flesh and Blood as
“ we have *.” Even their Excellency compared to his is defective, their Wisdom Folly, their Strength Weakness. Ver. 19. *How much less on them that dwell in houses of clay, &c.* “How can we then pretend to Perfection, who dwell in Bodies of Dirt;
“ &c *.” And the Place before us, Job xv. 14. *What is man that he should be clean, &c.* Ver. 15. *Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints,* he cannot absolutely confide in them as if they were immutably good *, yea, *the heavens are not clean in his sight.* Ver. 16. *How much more abominable and filthy is man,* in Comparison of the Divine Purity, *who drinketh iniquity like water?* who is attended with so many sensual Appetites, and so apt to indulge them? You see the Argument. Man, in his present weak and fleshly State, cannot be clean before God: Why so? Because he is conceived and born in Sin, by Reason of Adam’s Sin? No such thing: but because, if the purest Creatures are not pure in Comparison with God, much less a Being subject to so many Infirmities as a mortal Man. Which

is

* Dr. Patrick’s Paraphrase.

is a Demonstration to me, not only that *Job* and his Friends did not intend to establish the Doctrine we are now examining; but that they were wholly Strangers to it.

THE last Proof is,

John iii. 6. *That which is born of the flesh, is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit, is Spirit.* That which is born, saith our Saviour, in the Sense you, *Nicodemus*, speak of, is *Flesh*. A natural Birth produceth a mere natural Man. That which is born of a Woman, or *by the will of the flesh*, (Chap. i. 13.) by natural Descent and Propagation, is a Man, consisting of Body and Soul, or the mere Constitution and Powers of a Man in their natural State: but that *which is born of the Spirit, is born of God* (Chap. i. 13.) into a divine and spiritual Life; into the right Use and Application of the natural Powers, in a Life of Righteousness, Godliness and Sobriety. The natural Birth produceth the mere Parts and Powers of a Man: The Spiritual Birth produceth a Man sanctified into the right Use and Application of those Powers in a Life of true Holiness. This I take to be the true Sense of the Text: but do not see that it either affirms or implies, that we derive from *Adam*, by natural Generation, a Nature quite indisposed, and disabled to all spiritual Good. Certainly that cannot be concluded from the Force of the Text; which, on the
contrary

contrary supposeth that we have a Nature susceptible of the best kind of Habits, and capable of being born of the Spirit.

R E F L E C T I O N S.

“ THESE Texts should prove, that *Natural Generation* is the Means of conveying
 “ from our first Parents to us their Posterity, *Original Sin*, or an utter Indisposition,
 “ Difability and Opposition to all that is
 “ spiritually good, and a total Inclination to
 “ all that is evil. Which surely they do
 “ not prove : for if they did, then it would
 “ follow, that *Natural Generation* being the
 “ Means of unavoidably conveying all Sin
 “ and Wickedness into the World, must it
 “ self be a sinful and unlawful Thing, and
 “ ought, in Truth, to have been expressly
 “ prohibited by the Law of God. Whereas
 “ it is certainly agreeable to the Nature of
 “ Things, and expressly either commanded,
 “ or allowed in Revelation. *Gen. ix. 1.*
 “ *God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto*
 “ *them, Be fruitful and multiply.*—So far as
 “ we eat and drink in Sin, it is a Sin to eat
 “ and drink : And so far as we are generated
 “ in Sin, it must be a Sin to be generated.

“ FURTHER observe ; Divines, in this
 “ Argument, must suppose *Natural Generation*, as productive of the human Race, to

“ be a Cause distinct from the Power and
 “ Operation of God. Which is a great
 “ Mistake. For however the Will of Man
 “ may be concerned in *Natural Generation*,
 “ ’tis certain we produce one another just as
 “ much as the Oak produces the Acorn.
 “ The Action of Man is appointed for wise
 “ Reasons, but the proper Production of a
 “ Child is undoubtedly from God. So we
 “ eat Food ; but it is the Power of God
 “ under certain Laws and established Rules
 “ which digests it, and distributeth it through
 “ all the Parts of our Bodies. Now, if God
 “ produceth the *Fætus*, it is he that giveth it
 “ its Dispositions, and consequently implant-
 “ eth Sin in it : which is absurd.”

PROP. *The Fall brought unto Mankind the
 Loss of Communion with God.*---

SENSE. Communion is friendly Converſe
 or Fellowship with God ; when he declareth
 his Will to us, or viſiteth our Spirits with his
 kind Influences, and we addreſs ourſelves to
 him in Prayer, or any other Act of Worſhip.
 Now by the Fall, *i. e.* by *Adam's* firſt Tranſ-
 greſſion, it is here affirmed, that all Man-
 kind loſt Communion with God ; that is,
 I ſuppoſe, all friendly Intercourſe was cut off
 between God, and not only *Adam*, but alſo
 all Men that ſhould deſcend from him.

PROOFS.

PROOFS. *Gen. iii. 8, 10, 24. Ver. 8. And they heard the voice of the Lord GOD walking in the garden in the cool of the day : and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord GOD among the trees of the garden. Ver. 10. And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden : and I was afraid because I was naked : and I hid myself.*

ADAM and his wife, when they heard the Voice of God, hid themselves from him, whom they had before met, probably, with Delight. The Reason of which *Adam* giveth, *ver. 10.* namely, because they were afraid. Guilt made them both ashamed and afraid. But as that Guilt was their own personal Guilt, so the Fear that attended it was their own personal Fear ; as I have shewn upon this Place, *Part I.* But here is no Intimation that *their* Posterity also lost Communion with God, nor indeed any thing spoken of their Posterity. No doubt *Adam* and *Eve* by their Sin forfeited *Communion with God*, &c. but it could be only for themselves, and not for their Posterity, who were no ways guilty of, or accessory to, their Transgression.

BUT God did not take the Forfeiture at *their* Hands ; for, to say nothing of the gracious Intimations intermixed with the Sentence itself, no doubt *Adam* and his *Wife* had

frequent Communion with God in the Ordinances of Religion; seeing in the very next Chapter we find *Cain* and *Abel* engaged in an Act of solemn Worship; which the latter so rightly performed, that *the Lord had respect unto him and to his Offering*. And if *Cain* was not accepted, it was not because he had lost Communion with God on account of his Father's Sin, for that would have equally affected *Abel* and his Sacrifice, but because he did not *do well*. The Fault was in himself. *Gen. iv. 7*. And at sundry Times God appeared to the Patriarchs and Prophets, and they had Communion with him without any *Fear*. And at length the Son of God came into the World, and spake unto us the gracious Things of the Gospel; and still speaketh to us by his Word and Spirit; and Fellowship with the Father and the Son, blessed be God, is a happy Advantage to this Day to all who are wise to understand and improve it. So that as we could not justly, by *Adam's* Sin, lose Communion with God, it is true, in Fact, that we have not lost it.

IF you say, *this is owing to the Mercy of God in the Redeemer, which restoreth us to what we lost in Adam*: I answer, The Scripture, (as I have shewn, *Part I.*) saith, that all we lost in *Adam* was that Life which ceaseth when we leave this World; and that all that God's Grace doth for us in *Christ*, to repair that
Loss,

Loss, is raising us up at the last Day. And therefore Communion with God is either the same Grace, which was vouchsafed to *Adam*, continued to us : Or, if there be any thing extraordinary in it, it belongeth to the *Redundancy* of Grace, which overfloweth above and beyond the Consequences of *Adam's* Sin, and hath no Relation to any thing we lost by it. However, this Text, where there is no Mention made, nor Intimation given of *Adam's* Posterity, doth not prove that they, (supposing they were to have a Being, and to descend from him) lost Communion with God for his Sin, though 'tis true he did forfeit it for himself.

Ver. 24. *So he drove out the man : and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden, cherubims, and a flaming sword, which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

THE *Tree of Life* can, with any Shew of Truth, be considered only as either a Pledge and Sign of Immortality, or as a Means of preventing the Decay of the human Frame in Innocence ; in which respect it could be of no Use or Significancy to Man now doomed to Mortality. And being also condemned to a laborious Life, it was fit he should be banished out of the Garden to the common, and less fruitful Ground. This Text, in both Parts, hath immediate Relation only to the Duration

tion of Man's Life, and his outward Condition in the World; and therefore is no Proof of Mankind's losing Communion with God. Nor, for the Reason just now given, can any such Proof possibly be produced, any farther than as Men, by their own personal Wickedness, cut themselves off from the Love and Blessing of their Creator.

PROP. *The Fall brought upon Mankind—God's Displeasure and Curse, so as we are by Nature the Children of Wrath.*

SENSE. By *Adam's* one Transgression, and for no other Reason, all Mankind became subject to God's Displeasure and Curse.

PROOF. *Ephes. ii. 2, 3.* This we have considered before.

REFLECTIONS.

“ How Mankind, who were perfectly innocent of *Adam's* Sin, could for that Sin, and upon no other Account, be *justly* brought under God's Displeasure and Curse, we cannot understand. But, on the contrary, we do understand, and by our Faculties must necessarily judge, according to all Rules of Equity, it is *unjust*. And therefore, unless our Understanding, or Perception of Truth, be false, that is, unless we do not understand what we do understand; or understand that to be true,
“ which

“ which other Minds understand to be false,
 “ *it must be unjust.* But if Understanding
 “ clearly discerning its Object, were thus
 “ various, then it would be no Understand-
 “ ing in some Beings or other. For instance ;
 “ if my Understanding discerneth that twice
 “ two is equal to *four*, and another understand-
 “ ing discerneth that it is equal to *fourteen*, then
 “ either his or my Understanding is no Un-
 “ derstanding ; *i. e.* either he or I do under-
 “ stand what we do not understand ; which
 “ is absurd. Therefore Understanding can-
 “ not be various, but must be the same in
 “ all Beings as far as they do understand.
 “ And therefore if we understand, that it is
 “ *unjust*, that the Innocent should be under
 “ Displeasure, or a Curse, (and we see it
 “ very clearly, as clearly as we see that *that*
 “ *which is, is, or that which is not, is not*)
 “ then God understands it to be so too.

“ AND pray, consider seriously what a
 “ God he must be, who can be displeased
 “ with, and curse his innocent Creatures,
 “ even before they have a Being. *Is this*
 “ *thy God, O Christian?* But so far is
 “ God from cursing his innocent Creatures,
 “ that he hath not only turned the Sentence
 “ of Mortality into a general Good ; but
 “ hath also supply'd a *superabundance* of
 “ Grace in his Son. And I will be bold to
 “ say, that neither from *Ephes. ii. 2, 3.* nor

“ from any other Scripture, can the Proposition be proved.”

PROP. *The Fall brought unto Mankind—God's Displeasure and Curse, so as we are by Nature --- bond Slaves to Satan.--*

SENSE. By *Adam's* one Transgression, and for no other Reason, Men, every Man, and all Mankind are become *Bond-slaves* to the Devil ; that is, he reigneth over us, governeth us, and worketh in us.

PROOF. 2 *Tim.* ii. 26. *And that they may recover themselves out of the Snare of the Devil who are taken Captives by him at his Will.*

SPEAKING, I suppose, of any of the unconverted *Gentiles*, who opposed themselves to the Gospel, and were still under the power of darkness, and lived, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that wrought in them, the children of disobedience, *Ephes.* ii. 2. But this their Servitude to Satan is neither here, nor in any other Part of Scripture, ascribed to *Adam's* Sin, as the Cause and Reason of it ; but always to the Wickedness, filthy Lusts, and Idolatry in which the *Gentiles* lived.

BUT observe ; the Clause, *who are taken captive by him at his Will*, is spoken not of the Devil,

Devil, but of the servant of the Lord, ver. 24. And, at his Will, is not the Will of the Devil, but of GOD. For thus, I doubt not, the Place should have been render'd. Ver. 24. The servant of the Lord must be --- patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves : if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth ; ver. 26. and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the Devil, ἐλωρρημενοι being caught [to life] by him ὑπ' αὐτοῦ, [by the Servant of the Lord,] εἰς τὸ ἐκείνῃς θελημα, to the Obedience of his [God's] Will.

THIS, I think, is the genuine and undoubted Sense of the Text. For any *Greek Scholar*, that can only look into his *Lexicon*, will satisfy you, that the Word *ζωρεω* never signifieth to *take captive*, or catch either Men or Beasts to kill and destroy them : but it always signifieth to *revive*, to *bring to Life*, to *restore* ; and when applied to War or Hunting, signifieth to *take with a Design to preserve, and keep alive* : not as Enemies taken for Bonds, or for Death, but as Captives redeemed for Life and Liberty * : And is here very elegantly, and emphatically opposed to the Devil's ensnaring Souls to Destruction, as the Act of God's Grace, and the Ministry of the

* Ζωρεῖ, Ἀτρεῖς υἱε, συ δ' ἀξιαδεξαι ἀποινα. ΙΛΙΑΔ. Ζ.

the Gospel, catching them out of his Hands, (that is, bringing them out of Error and Wickedness) in order to restore them to Life and Salvation. And with the same Force and Elegance it is applied to *Peter's catching of Men* by the preaching of the Gospel. *Luke v. 10.* *Henceforth* ἀπὸ τῆς ἐσχάτης ζώης, *thou shalt catcht Men*, namely, unto Life, and Salvation: for that is implied in the Force of the Word. And these two are all the Places where the Word is used in the New Testament.

THIS Observation, in a great Measure, destroyeth the Stress of the Proof. But in no Sense that can be put upon the Place consistently with other Scriptures, can it be made to prove, that for *Adam's* Transgression, all we, his Posterity, who are quite innocent of that Transgression, are subjected to the *Bond-Slavery of Satan*. For who but God shall give that impure Spirit Licence to domineer and tyrannize over us? And what a strange Inconsistency must ~~that~~ be in the Divine Dispensations, and in the Scriptures, if it can be made appear from them, that God hath (for no Fault of ours certainly, but only for *Adam's* one Sin) put us all into the Hands of the Devil, into Subjection to his Will and Dominion; when at the same time it appears, from all Parts of Scripture, that God hath been providing, from the Beginning of the World to this Day, various Means and Dispensations
to

to either preserve, or rescue Mankind from the Devil, that is, from Error and Wickedness? It is no Objection to this, that Satan is permitted to tempt us. For he was permitted to tempt our first Parents in Paradise before they sinned; and therefore his Permission to tempt us is not the Consequence of *Adam's* Sin, but the Appointment of God our Creator, who alone is wise, and who alone hath a Right to appoint our Trials. And we know that Satan hath no Power to seduce or tyrannize but what we ourselves give him by voluntary Compliance and Subjection to Sin; and that if we *resist* him, *he will*, he must *flee from us*.

PROP. *The Fall brought unto Mankind --- God's Displeasure and Curse, so as we are --- justly liable to all Punishments in this World, and that which is to come.*

SENSE. By *Adam's* one Sin and Transgression, and for no other Reason, all Mankind are justly liable to all Punishments in this World, specified in the next Proposition, namely, *either inward, as Blindness of Mind, a reprobate Sense, strong Delusions, Hardness of Heart, Horror of Conscience, and vile Affections: Or outward, as the Curse of God upon the Creatures, and all other Evils that befall us in our Bodies, Names, Estates, Relations, Employments, together with Death itself.* And not only so, but we are also for *Adam's* one Trans-

Transgression justly liable to the Punishments of the World to come, specified in the next Proposition but one, namely, everlasting Separation from the comfortable Presence of God, and most grievous Torments in Soul and Body without Intermission in Hell-fire for ever.

PROOFS. *Gen. ii. 17.* -- *For in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die.* This Text proveth that *Adam* by eating the forbidden Fruit, in Disobedience to God, forfeited his Life. See *Part I.* But as to his Posterity, it will be very difficult to shew it proveth any thing at all; excepting, that if *Adam* had actually lost his Life immediately upon his eating the forbidden Fruit, he would have had no Posterity.

Lam. iii. 39. *Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his [own] sins?* Not *Adam's* one Sin. For surely he might justly complain if punished for Sins not his own.

Rom. vi. 23. *For the wages of sin is death.*

AN awful Truth indeed. But then the Apostle evidently speaks, not of *Adam's* one Sin, but of the personal Sins in which the *Romans* had lived. *Ver. 19.* *As ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness, and to iniquity, &c.* *Ver. 20.* *For when ye were the servants, or*
Slaves,

Slaves, of *sin*, &c. Ver. 21. *What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.* -- Ver. 23. *For the wages of all sin is death.* He is clearly speaking of the sinful Lusts and Courses in which they had lived ; which he sheweth, according to the Nature and true Demerit of all Sin, had a Tendency to Death. But what is this to *Adam's Sin*, or its Effects upon us ?

Mat. xxv. 41, 46. *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me ye cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. Ver. 46. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment : but the righteous into life eternal.*

AND *these shall go away into everlasting punishment : But for what Cause ?* For *Adam's* one Sin ? No. Most plainly and infallibly, not for the Sin of *Adam* ; but for their own personal Iniquity, which *JESUS*, the holy and faithful Witness, expressly specifieth, ver. 42, 43. *I, in the Persons of my Servants, was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat : I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink : I was a stranger, and ye took me not in : naked, and ye clothed me not : sick and in prison, and ye visited me not, &c.* Not for the Sin of *Adam*, but manifestly for their want of Benevolence, Love and Compassion to their Fellow-Creatures, are they condemned.

demned. Behold the Force of Prejudice, and the great Evil of blind Resignation to Schemes! Is it possible any one can mistake this Scripture? Is there any apparent Difficulty in it? and yet it stands here applied to a Purpose quite different from its plain and obvious Sense. In vain hath *JESUS* brought the Doctrine of Life from Heaven, and lodged it in his Word, if Men, through Carelessness, or something worse, will thus wrest and pervert what he hath taught. For thus the Scriptures *are rendered* useless to at least the Generality, and a dark Veil is drawn over those Principles which should be their Purity, Stedfastness and Joy; and by palpable Misrepresentations the Bible becometh unintelligible, and, in effect, is taken out of their Hands. I hope, my Friend, you have all along observed the Difference between the Truth and Error; but here the Darkness and the Day appear in their Extremes. The glorious LORD of Life teacheth in the Texts above quoted, that Want of Love, Compassion and Benevolence toward our Fellow-Creatures will exclude us from the Kingdom of Heaven, and subject us to severe Punishment from GOD, who is Love. A Truth perfectly Divine and Rational, exactly fitting our Circumstances, and very powerful to promote universal Love, and Beneficence in our present State, and to qualify us for Exaltation and Enjoyment in a better World. But lo! Men have solemnly pointed
out

out these Texts to prove, that *CHRIST* will, or may justly, condemn us to all Tortures of Body and Mind in Hell-fire without Intermiſſion to all Eternity, only for one Sin committed Thouſands of Years before we had a Being, without taking into the Account any of our own perſonal Iniquities. This is perfectly aſtoniſhing! Surely the heavenly Rule of our Faith ſhall not always be thus trampled upon.

ANOTHER pretended Proof is,

Jude 7. *Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner giving themſelves over to fornication, and going after ſtrange fleſh, are ſet forth for an example, ſuffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

THEY *ſuffered the Vengeance of eternal Fire*, as thoſe Cities were deſtroy'd with Fire and Brimſtone from Heaven, beyond a Poſſibility of being ever rebuilt or inhabited. And wherefore did they ſuffer this Vengeance? For *Adam's Sin*? No: For then it might have been inflicted with equal Fitneſs upon any other, even the moſt virtuous City. Not for *Adam's Sin* did they ſuffer this Vengeance; but for their own worſe than beaſtly Wickedneſs; their Fornication and Sodomy, mentioned in the Text as the *only* Cauſe of their Deſtruction.

R E F L E C T I O N S.

“ THE whole of this Proposition, except-
 “ ing temporal Evils, and Mortality (which
 “ yet are no Punishment upon us for *Adam's*
 “ Sin) certainly hath no Foundation in Scri-
 “ pture. I have no Inclination to expose it,
 “ in all its frightful Consequences. How
 “ highly injurious it is to Divine Justice any
 “ one may see. But give me leave to
 “ commiserate the mistaken Many, with
 “ whom such Points as these pass for Articles
 “ of the Christian Faith. Their Eyes are
 “ covered with a thick Cloud of Error, and
 “ the All-perfect Goodness of God, which
 “ should be their Joy, and Life, is thereby
 “ intercepted from their View; or appeareth
 “ quite deformed: and they sit astonished in
 “ the gloomy Cave of SUPERSTITION,
 “ haunted with causeless Fear, Terror and
 “ Despair, and resounding with the horrible
 “ Murmur of Blasphemy.”

THE two remaining Propositions in the
 Catechism, which I have already mentioned
 and transcribed, declare and specify what are
 Punishments of Sin in this World, and that
 which is to come, and there are Texts annexed
 to the several Parts by way of Proof. But
 you may easily see they are all misapply'd
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as to *Adam's* Sin, and its Effect upon us, (except *Gen. iii. 17.* which speaks of the Curse upon the Ground, &c.) the several Instances of Punishment evidently relating to *personal* Wickedness, which in the several Texts is distinctly mentioned; and therefore I shall refer them to your own Perusal.

THUS we are got at last to the End of this Part of our Inquiry, in which I am conscious I have acted uprightly and impartially. I do not know that I have concealed, diminished, magnified, wrested, or perverted any thing; but, to the best of my Judgment, have given you the true and full Sense of every Text, so far as it relates to the present Concern, without any artful Colourings, as honestly and plainly as I can. And those are the principal Texts alleged to explain and support the common Doctrine of *Original Sin*. But I cannot see that we have advanced one Step further than where we were at the Conclusion of the first Part; namely, that the Consequences of *Adam's* first Transgression upon us are Labour, Sorrow, and Mortality; and, for ought that appears, so far, and no farther, our Faith upon this Article of Religion should extend.

BUT yet I have not done with the Subject. Objections are to be answered; and

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you are free to propose any you think material: And then the Scheme of Religion, with which this Doctrine hath been interwoven, is to be adjusted: And these Things will finish my original Design.

NORWICH,

Decemb. 31.

1735.

The End of the SECOND PART.



THE



THE
Scripture-Doctrine
OF
ORIGINAL SIN

PROPOSED TO

Free and Candid EXAMINATION.

PART III.

Wherein some Objections and Queries are answered, and the Connection of the Doctrine of *Original Sin*, with other Parts of Religion, particularly REDEMPTION and REGENERATION, is considered, &c.

MAL. ii. 10. *Have we not ALL one father? hath not one God created us?*

JOB xxxi. 15. *Did not he that made me in the womb, make him, my Servant? and did not one fashion us in the womb?*





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WE have examined all the Texts we can find which do *certainly* speak of the Consequences of *Adam's* Sin upon us, and the principal of those other Texts, which have been supposed by Divines to belong to that Point. Let every Man judge freely, soberly and impartially. For myself, I declare, I see no sufficient Ground for believing

more than this; That in Consequence of *Adam's* Sin, he and his Posterity were adjudged to Labour, Sorrow and Death: and that thereupon a new Dispensation, *abounding* with Grace, was erected in a Redeemer.

BUT you may ask,

OBJECT. I. *Are we not in worse moral Circumstances than Adam was?* I answer,

I. IF by *moral Circumstances* the present State of Religion and Virtue in the World be intended, it is certain the moral Circumstances of Mankind, since the time *Adam* first turned into the Way of Transgression, have been very different from a State of Innocence. So far as we can judge from History, or what we know at present, the greatest Part of Mankind have been, and still are, very corrupt, though not equally so in every Age and Place. But this is not the Fault of their Nature, no more than *Adam's* first Sin was the Fault of *his* Nature; but occasioned, as *his* Transgression was, by the Abuse of it, in prostituting Reason to Appetite, or resigning it to a wrong Direction; whereby, as he departed from God, and violated his Law, so his Posterity, in process of Time, have sunk themselves into the most lamentable Degrees of Ignorance, Superstition, Idolatry, Injustice, Debauchery, &c. And I ask, Whether it
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be right the World should be reformed from this Corruption? — Yes, undoubtedly. — But, according to the Scheme we are considering, a corrupt Nature will, to the End of the World, remain in every Man so long as he liveth : Consequently, the Reformation of Mankind must be impracticable with regard to the impure Spring of all Wickedness. Nor doth it much mend the Matter to say, *God hath commanded Men to repent and reform, and appointed Means to be used for that End.* For if all Men are by Nature utterly indisposed, disabled, and opposite to all spiritual Good, and wholly inclined to all Evil continually, they can be in no Capacity of using the Means of Amendment ; and consequently no Man is obliged to attempt the Reformation of the World ; nor any, except Adam, blameable for whatever Wickedness is in it, seeing it proceeds from a Cause subsisting in natural Necessity ; a Cause which depriveth us of the Power of helping ourselves ; and a Cause which, as we cannot, so God will not totally remove in this Life. But,

II. IF by *moral Circumstances* be meant, *the Provision and Means God hath furnished for our spiritual Improvement*, the Apostle, *Rom. v. 15, 17.* expressly affirms, that in *Jesus Christ* God hath given us an *abundance of Grace*. And as this is always represented as an additional and extraordinary *free Gift* in

the new Dispensation, we may truly conclude, that with regard to the *Provision and Means which God hath supply'd in Christ*, our moral Circumstances are more advantageous for spiritual Improvement than *Adam's* were before he sinned. For which we are bound to give Thanks to the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour *Jesus Christ*.

III. BUT if by *moral Circumstances* we mean *moral Abilities*, or *mental Powers*, the Question will be, Whether our Faculties be now as sound and fit for right Action, as *Adam's* were before he sinned? To which I reply, The Scriptures no where compare our Faculties with *Adam's*. I do not remember any one Place in all the Bible where the Capacities of our Minds are said to be either better or worse, larger or narrower than *Adam's* were. Nor do I know how we can make a Judgment upon this Case, but by comparing the Acts which *Adam* performed in his State of Innocence, with what Men have since been capable of.

THE first Act of *Adam* is his dressing or keeping the Garden of *Eden*, *Gen. ii. 15*. For we will suppose, that, as God put him into the Garden of *Eden* for that End, he was obedient to the Divine Will, and was diligent in cultivating and ordering that pleasant Spot of Ground. And this, for ought I know,
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any of his Posterity, in the Possession of common Understanding, might have done as well as he.

ANOTHER of *Adam's* Acts was, his giving Names to all the Creatures, *Gen. ii. 19.* This may be consider'd as an Act of Dominion over them. *Adam*, as Lord over the inferior Creation, by Divine Grant, gave what Names he pleased to all Beasts and Fowls. But it doth not appear, that in this he shew'd any extraordinary Penetration into their Natures, or that he could judge more truly of their various Qualities than we can: For, that the Names he gave truly expressed the several Qualities of the Creatures, is a mere Fiction without any Foundation in Scripture History, or the Scripture Names of Animals in the original *Hebrew*; if that be the Language *Adam* spake. But if *Adam's* Language be lost or doubtful, then the Argument for his superior mental Abilities, taken from the Significancy of the Names he gave the Creatures, is lost or doubtful. And have not many of his Posterity given Names to the Creatures as well as he? and, for ought appears, as significant as his? Creatures have Names in all Languages, and most of them quite different from those which *Adam* gave. Which Names must have been originally invented and imposed by some Men or other. And therefore in this also we neither find he
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had any Capacity superior to us, or that it was a Work he only could perform.

PERHAPS another of *Adam's* Acts may be imply'd in that Clause, *ver. 20.*—*But for Adam there was not found an help-meet for him.* Supposing that upon a Review of the Creatures, the LORD GOD put it to *Adam* to say, If he judged any of them fit to be the Companion and Partner of his Life? and that *Adam* answered in the negative, That none of the brutal Kind was a Match for his Nature, I do not see but any Man in his right Senses would have given in the same Answer.

WHEN the Lord God brought his Wife to him, he owned she was *bone of his bones, and flesh of his flesh*, and called her *woman*, or *she-man*, because *she was taken out of man*, Gen. ii. 23. Here it is supposed that *Adam* knew the Woman was taken out of his Body, and for that Reason acknowledgeth she was *bone of his bones*, &c. another Self, of the same Make and Constitution with himself, and therefore fit to be the Associate of his Life. In which Sentiment all his Posterity in all Generations have concurred ; which is Evidence enough, that most, or all of them, would have thought the same Thing in the like Circumstances. But how came he to know that the Woman was taken out of his Body? *Ans.* Seeing the
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Scripture doth not ascribe this to any extraordinary Knowledge or Sagacity in *Adam*, it seems most reasonable to suppose, that the Lord God told him either before or after the Operation (for under it he was in a deep Sleep) that he either would take, or had taken, the the Woman out of his Side.

THE 24th Verse; *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, &c.* are the Words, not of *Adam*, but of God. So our Saviour tells us, *Mat. xix. 4, 5. Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning, made them male and female? and said, [he that made them said] For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh.*

THE next Act of *Adam* recorded in sacred History is, his eating the forbidden Fruit: Which was a Violation of the express Command and Covenant of God, whereby he knew he made himself liable to the Punishment of Death, if the Word of his Creator was worthy of any Regard. And surely this is no Evidence of superior moral Abilities; but of the contrary. What his *special* Temptation was we do not know. The Scripture only saith, *The woman gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat;* Gen. iii. 6. But if his Temptation was of the same degree

gree with that of *Eve*, or even supposing it had some additional Force beyond her's ; I leave you to judge, whether some, if not many, of his Posterity, have not overcome Temptations more violent than his ? And whether, for instance, *Joseph's* resisting the Solicitations of his Mistress ; *Moses* his refusing to be called the son of *Pharaoh's* daughter, and chusing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, Heb. xi. 24. and esteeming the reproach of true Religion greater riches than the treasures of Egypt ? whether the brave and bold Refusal of the three young Men, *Dan.* iii. to worship *Nebuchadnezzar's* golden Image, when they knew they should in a dreadful manner be burnt alive in a fiery Furnace if they did not ? or whether *Daniel's* resolving rather to be torn in pieces by fierce Lions, than to forbear, or even conceal, the Worship of God for one Month of his Life ? *Dan.* vi. 7. I leave you, I say, to consider, whether these Men, and many others, have not exhibited a Virtue, a Faith in God, and steady Adherence to him, far superior to any thing we read or know of *Adam*, even in his most perfect State ?

You will say, *the Grace of God strengthened and assisted these Men.* I reply, that all the Faculties and Helps that *Adam* had, and that we have, are wholly from the Grace or Good-

Goodness of God. He had no Powers nor Advantages from himself any more than we : and therefore this doth not alter the State of the Argument ; but it will still be true, that if God hath furnished any Powers to any of *Adam's* Posterity to perform a Holiness superior to his, even though he did not favour *Adam* with those Powers ; it will, I say, be true, that the spiritual Strength of such of *Adam's* Posterity is superior to his ; and for this very Reason too, because God hath given them larger Communications of his Grace than he gave to him.

THESE are all the Acts of *Adam* by which we can form any Idea of his natural Capacities, or moral Abilities before his Transgression. And now let any Man soberly weigh and see, whether there be really in Revelation any Ground for exalting his Nature to such an extraordinary Degree of Purity and Strength as that to which Divines have raised it ; who have affirmed, all his Faculties were eminently perfect, and entirely set to the Love and Obedience of his Creator ; his Knowledge exceeding clear, and extensive ; his Will in full Power and Inclination to do God's Will, and his Affections perfectly tuned to the Love of that which is supremely good ; with such like Encomiums. As if he were of a much nobler, and more exalted Kind than we ; and as if we, compared to him,

him, were a Race of sorry, diminutive Wretches. And yet these same Men, which is very odd, all of a sudden, while they are ascribing such great Things to *Adam*, suppose him immediately, in Contradiction to the express Prohibition of his Maker, guilty of the vilest Act that ever was committed under the Sun, being, according to their Schemes, the Root, Cause, and Reason of all the Sin, Transgression, Apostacy, Rebellion, and Corruption, that ever hath yet been, or shall hereafter be in the World.

OBJECT. II. *But the Assembly of Divines affirm, and quote the Texts under-mentioned to prove, that Adam was created after God's own Image °, in Knowledge P, Righteousness, and Holiness q, having the Law of God written in his Heart r, and Power to fulfil it s. And will you say, that his Posterity are made in the same Image of God? — See the Assembly's larger Catechism.*

° *Gen. i. 27.* P *Col. iii. 10.* q *Ephes. iv. 24.*
 r *Rom. ii. 14, 15.* s *Eccl. vii. 29.*

ANSW. That *Adam* was created after God's own Image, is truly proved from *Gen. i. 27.* *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him.* But whatever be the Meaning of the *Image of God* in this Place, no Reason can be given why it should not have the same Sense in *Gen. ix. 6.* *Whoso shed-*

sheddeh man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man; or, he hath made Man. And if this, that God made Man in his Image, was in Noah's Days, when the World had stood 1656 Years, a good Reason for punishing Murther with the Death of the Murtherer, and will continue a good and true Reason to the end of the World; then it followeth, that Men in Noah's Days, as well as Adam, were made in the Image of God, and also that they were to be made in the same Image to the end of the World. Otherwise; if Men were not in Noah's Time, and in all Generations, made in the Image of God, this would neither then, nor in any future Time, have been any Reason at all for punishing the Murtherer with Death; seeing it would hold good only in Adam's Case, who alone was made in the Image of God: But would not hold good in the Case of any of his Posterity, upon Supposition they were not made in the Image of God. Therefore if Gen. i. 27. proveth that Adam was made in the Image of God, Gen. ix. 6. proveth that his Posterity also are made in the same Image, whatever that Image be. Accordingly 'tis said, Gen. v. 3. That Adam begat a Son in his likeness, after his image, i. e. He begat a Man like himself, having the same Nature, which God had given him. Our Translators add, in his own likeness; and it hath been understood to refer

to some Likeness or Image besides that Image in which God created him. But that is mere Supposition, and cannot be concluded from the Sense of the Words, which stand thus in the Original, - - - *and he begat in his likeness, in his image.*

THE two following Texts are brought by the *Assembly of Divines* to prove and explain, what the Image of God was, in which *Adam* was made.

Col. iii. 10. *And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge [i. e. the Acknowledgment of the Truth] after the image of him that [hath] created him [i. e. the new Man. For, Ephes. ii. 10. We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, by the Dispensation of Wisdom and Grace in Christ Jesus, unto good works.] And,*

Ephes. iv. 24. And that ye put on the new man, which after [the Image of] God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

THESE two Texts are parallel, and from them we learn,

1. THAT as the *old man* signifieth the Life these Christians had lived while they were Heathens, (*Ephes. iv. 17. - - - that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk - - ver. 22. That ye put off, concerning the FORMER CON-*

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VERSATION, the old Man *which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.*) As the *old Man* signifieth a heathenish Life, or *Conversion*, so the *new Man* signifieth the Life of Truth, Righteousness and Holiness, which they were taught, and to which they were called, formed and created, by the Dispensation of the Grace of God in the Gospel, and the Means he had there prepared. Read carefully *Ephes. iv. ver. 17.* to the end of the Chapter. We learn,

2. THAT this *new Man*, this new Character and Course of Life, is after the Image, or is agreeable to the Nature of him, who thus createth him. God himself is righteous and holy, and they who walk in Righteousness and Holiness are like unto him. We conclude therefore, that by the Grace of the Gospel we are sanctified; and being sanctified, are conformed to the Image of God.

BUT doth this prove, that Righteousness and true Holiness was the Image of God in which *Adam* was made? - - Probably the Apostle *alludeth* to *Adam's* being made in the Image of God, and taketh his Manner of Expression from thence: but it will not, I had almost said, it *cannot*, follow, that *Adam* was originally created in *this* Image of God; for a very good Reason, because this Image, or the Habits of Virtue and Holiness, *cannot* be

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created

created in the same Manner as our natural Faculties. Our natural Faculties are made (and so were *Adam's*) by an Act of God's absolute Power, without our Knowledge, Concurrence, or Consent. But moral Virtue, or Holiness, in its very Nature implieth the Choice and Consent of a moral Agent, without which it *cannot* be Virtue or Holiness. God indeed can, and undoubtedly doth, assist and direct us in this Choice and Consent in Ways and Degrees which we are not able to determine. But still, Holiness must necessarily be the Choice of our own Minds. For how much soever we are assisted in choosing, it must be our own Act and Deed, or it cannot be *our* Virtue and Holiness. A necessary Holiness is no Holiness; a Virtue or Righteousness supposed to be forced upon our Minds, and irresistibly infused into us, whether we will or not, is no Virtue, no Righteousness. Therefore, however God may provide and apply Means to engage our Wills to the Observance of what is right and true, it is, I think, Demonstration, that we cannot, as moral Agents, observe what is right and true, or be righteous and holy, without our own free and explicit Choice. And in consequence, *Adam* could not be originally created in Righteousness and true Holiness; because he must choose to be righteous before he could be righteous; and therefore he must exist, he must *be created*, yea,

he must exercise Thought and Reflection, before he *was righteous*. For Righteousness is the right Use and Application of our Powers : consequently our Powers must not only exist, but also be used and applied before we can be righteous.

FROM all this it seems evident, that when God is said to have created Man in his own Image and Likeness, *Gen. i. 26, 27.* it must be understood of the rational Faculties of his Mind, or the Dominion he had over the inferior Creatures, whereby he bore the nearest Resemblance to God of any Beings in this World : and not of Holiness and Righteousness, which is a right Use of our spiritual Faculties ; because such an Use of them could not be till after they were created.

AND lastly, note ; That if the foregoing Reasoning and Arguments be good, *Original Righteousness* is just as far from Truth as *Original Sin*. And to talk of our *wanting that Righteousness in which Adam was created*, is to talk of nothing we want. Another Proof is,

Rom. ii. 14, 15. *For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these having not the law, are a law unto themselves ; which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the meanwhile accusing or else excusing one another.*

WHEREAS the Apostle had affirmed, *ver.* 12. that the *Gentiles*, who *sin without law*, should perish agreeably to the Dispensation they were under, it might be objected: *But how can the Gentiles, who have no written law, be accountable for their behaviour, or obnoxious to punishment for their sins?* To this he answereth, *ver.* 14. “The *Gentiles* have indeed no written Law; but for all that, they have, and are under, a Rule of Life; and that Rule is their Understanding and Reason; as appears from hence: that many of them actually do the Things contained in the Law; are just, kind, temperate, and benevolent. Now, when they do by *Nature*, by their natural Powers, the virtuous Actions which the Law requireth, these virtuous Heathens, seeing they have no written Law, do manifest they are a Law, a Rule of Action unto themselves, *Ver.* 15. and hereby do evidence, that the Work of the Law, the Good which the Law requireth, and the Evil it condemns, *is written in THEIR HEARTS;*” (there’s the Stress and Force of the Apostle’s Argument.) They *shew* that *the Work of the Law* is written in THEIR HEARTS, inscribed upon their NATURAL Faculties; interwoven with the very Frame and Constitution of the human Nature, and consequently that a Sense of moral Good and Evil is common to all Mankind.

Which

Which further appears from the Force of Conscience in the Heathen, and the secret Condemnation or Approbation of their own Actions, which they carry in their Breasts. Therefore the wicked Heathen, who do not the Things contained in the Law, shall justly be condemned; because having, as well as the virtuous Heathen, *the Work of the Law written in their Hearts*, they acted contrary to the Rules of their own Nature, and the Evidence and Sense of Truth which God hath implanted in them.

THIS is the Apostle's Argument. And it clearly proveth, that the Light of Nature, common Reason and Understanding, is a Law, a Rule of right Action to all Mankind; that all Men ought to follow it, and that, if they do not, they are answerable to God. Therefore this Text is so far from serving the Purpose for which it is brought, that it overthrows the whole Scheme of *Original Sin* as taught by the *Assembly of Divines*.

HERE one cannot forbear observing what serious Regard hath been paid to the true Sense of Scripture, and how careful Divines were to establish their Doctrine upon a just and firm Foundation in the Word of God, when they could produce a Text to prove, that *Adam* in Innocence had the Law of God written in his Heart, in Opposition to the de-

prav'd State of his Posterity; which Text manifestly and undeniably affirms, that the most corrupt Part of his Posterity, the very *Pagans*, had the Law of God written in their Hearts! *The brightest Revelation, thus wretchedly applied, must be worse than the Darknefs of mere Ignorance: it will not only not discover the Truth, but vindicate the greatest Error.*

THE last Proof is taken from

Ecclef. vii. 29. Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright, but they have sought out many inventions.

THE Wiseman in the Context is inquiring into the Corruption and Depravity of Mankind, of the Men and Women that lived in his Times. In this Inquiry he met with Difficulties. However, in this he was clear, and it was the only thing in which he was clear, *that God had made Man*, Man collectively, or Mankind, *upright*. God had given to Men, not only to *Adam* at first, but to *all Men* in succeeding Generations, Reason and Understanding to distinguish between Good and Evil, to choose the one, and refuse the other; Powers to know and perform the Duty he requireth of them: and therefore their Wickedness must not be ascribed to a good, just, and holy God, as if he had given them a vicious and corrupt Nature; but to themselves,

certainly. But he createth our Souls spotless; how comes it then to pass that he createth our Bodies polluted? (for upon this Scheme it must be supposed that the Body is antecedently polluted; otherwise how could it pollute the Soul as soon as it enters into it?) Must not every Thing God createth be pure and spotless as it comes out of his Hands? Whence then is it that our Bodies are polluted? That, say they, is from *Adam*. Some defiling Quality or other is derived from *Adam*, which operates at the same time God is creating, mingleth with his Work by his Permission, and polluteth the Thing he is forming. As if some Power or other stood by while he was planting the Vine, and sprinkled it with an infectious Liquor to poison and corrupt its Juice, God being either not willing, or not able to hinder it. But this, I am persuaded, is quite too gross to be admitted. - - - Once more. How can the Body, especially in a State separate from the Soul, be at all polluted in a moral Sense? The Body, it is evident, is unactive Matter, which in itself neither is nor can be the Subject of moral Good and Evil, any more than a Log of Wood, or a Mass of Clay.

IN short, it is absurd to say, the Body is polluted separate from the Soul. It is absurd to say an infectious Quality, or any thing else, is derived from *Adam* to every human Body,

Body, independent of the Will and Operation of God : And to say, it is by his Will and Operation, is plainly to make him the Author of the Pollution.

OBJECT. IV. *But it hath been often observed, that the Vices of Parents do infect the Blood of their Children, and communicate to them bodily Distempers, yea, and the Vices themselves ; what Absurdity then is it to admit, we derive a vicious Taint from Adam ?*

ANSW. Even vicious Parents do not *always*, in any Sense, communicate Vice to their Children. For the Children of vicious Parents often prove virtuous, and of virtuous Parents vicious. *Ezek. xviii. 5. If a man be just, and do that which is lawful and right,--- Ver. 10. If this just Man beget a son that is a robber, and shedder of blood. --- Ver. 14. Now lo, if this Robber and Shedder of Blood, beget a son that seeth all his father's sins, which he hath done, and considereth, and doth not such like, &c.*

BUT by *Propagation* it is not *possible* Parents should communicate Vice ; which is always the faulty Choice of a Person's own Will, otherwise it is not Vice. Indeed, the Blood and Spirits of the Child may be of the same Temperature with those of the Parent : And so a Man may possibly have Passions and Ap-
petites

petites of the same Degree or Quality with those of his Progenitors. But this can truly be assigned to no other Cause besides the Will of God, who wisely appoints to every Man his Constitution, and all his other Trials, as he thinks fit.

BODILY Distempers too may be occasioned by the Vices of Parents. But this also is from the Will of God, favourably, as I take it, constituting our Circumstances so, as to lessen the Quantity of Sin, or however of Mischief, in the World. No Changes can happen in our Constitution without either the Appointment, or immediate Operation of God. And this Change, I think, is manifestly for the better. For when vicious Parents ruin their Constitutions and Estates by Luxury and Debauchery, a Stop is not only put to the Outrage of their own Iniquity, but also their diseased and less wealthy Posterity, who may be inclined to follow their bad Examples, are disabled from running into the same Degree of Excess and Violence. Whereas if Wickedness should continue from Generation to Generation in the same prosperous, healthy State as among the long-liv'd, vigorous *Antediluvians*, the same universal Corruption might prevail and quite ruin the World. Therefore, so far as I can see, this is to be regarded as a gracious Expedient to disable the Wicked, and to retrench the Exorbitancy of Vice.

OBJECT.

OBJECT. V. *Children begin very soon to sin; and how can this be accounted for but upon the Scheme of Original Sin, namely, that it is infused into their Nature?*

BUT who shall tell us how soon Children begin to sin? 'Tis plain, for some time after their Entrance upon Life they are no moral Agents, having no Use, that we can perceive, of their rational Powers, and therefore, for that time, are quite incapable of Sin. And 'tis by slow Degrees they come to the Use of Understanding, the animal Passions being for some Years the governing Part of their Constitution; and therefore, tho' they may be froward, and apt to displease us, yet how far this is Sin in them, we are not capable of judging. But it may suffice to say, that it is the Will of God, that Children should have Appetites and Passions to regulate and restrain; that he hath given Parents Instructions and Commands to discipline and inform their Minds; that if Parents first learned true Wisdom for themselves, and then endeavoured to bring up their Children in the Way of Virtue, there would be less Wickedness in the World, and the Untractableness of Children less visible. The wise Creator puts nothing into our Hands finished, as to its Use and Application. He plentifully supplieth all Materials for this and a better Life; but they
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are not improved without our own Thought and Industry. He createth Trees and Wool ; but human Wisdom and Sedulity work *this* into Garments, and *those* into Ships and Houses. So the Inspiration of the Almighty hath given us the Faculties of Understanding : but like Timber in the Tree, or Wool in the Fleece. And if our Faculties are neglected and run wild, we have no more reason to blame our NATURE, than the careless, slothful *Indians*, inhabiting a fruitful Country, have to quarrel with Providence for not furnishing them with the Conveniencies which the ingenious and industrious *European* enjoyeth. The best Soil uncultivated is lost ; and Children undisciplin'd and indulg'd contract bad Habits. But this, while they are Children, is the Fault of careless, ungodly Parents, not of that Nature which God in much Goodness hath given.

READ and attend to the Sense of the Spirit of Wisdom upon this Head. *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it ;* Prov. xxii. 6. And ver. 15. *Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him ;* q. d. How strong soever Appetite may be in Children, proper Discipline will correct and regulate it. *He that spareth the rod, hateth his son ; but he that loveth him, chasteneth him betimes. With-hold not correction*
from

from the child : for if thou beatest him with the rod he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and deliver his soul from hell. The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings his mother to shame. Fathers provoke not your children to wrath ; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Happy would it be for Parents, Children, and all the World, were these Instructions faithfully observed.

SAY not ; good Men have had bad Children. For good Men, like *David*, 1 *Kings* i. 6. may fail in this Part of their Character ; or one Parent may secretly indulge what the other correcteth. Tho' after all, Children are moral Agents, and may, as they grow up, and meet with Temptations, be drawn away, and enticed into Wickedness, when Parents have done the best they can.

See the appendix at the End of the Book.

OBJECT. VI. *But there is a Law in our Members, in our fleshly Appetites, which warreth against the Law in our Minds, bringing us into Captivity to the Law of Sin and Death ; and the holy Apostle with sorrow acknowledgeth this was his own case, Rom. vii. 23, 24. And doth not this prove, that it is the Case of all Men, even good and holy Men, while they are in this World ? and consequently that we come into the World infected and depraved with these sinful Dispositions ?*

ANSW.

ANSW. I. If we come into the World *infected* and *depraved* with sinful Dispositions *, then Sin must be *natural* to us; and if *natural*, then *necessary*; and if *necessary*, then no Sin.

2. THE Apostle, (*Rom. Chap. vii.*) doth not speak of himself, or of any other Man, as he cometh into the World, but as he is afterwards depraved and corrupted by his own wicked Choice.

3. HE doth not there speak of himself, or of any Man in a regenerate State: but describeth the unhappy Condition of a *Jew*, *in the Flesh*, under the Power of Sin, and under a Law which condemneth him to Death for it. And this, to demonstrate the Need the *Jew* had of the gracious Provision in *CHRIST* for his Salvation.

THAT he speaks to the *Jews* in this Chapter, appears from *ver. 1.* *Know ye not, brethren, for I speak to them that know the law,* i. e. to the *Jews*. That he speaks of a *Jew* under the Power of Sin appears from *ver. 5.* *For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sin, which were by the law wrought in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.* To

* Distinguish between sinful Dispositions, or Dispositions that *are* sinful, and Dispositions that *may be* sinful, or that may lead us to Sin.

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the *Jews*, certainly, he directeth himself;
for the *Gentiles* never were under the Law.

THAT he is not speaking of himself, I think, is manifest enough. For the Person or Persons, of whom he speaks, were, *before the Commandment came, i. e. before they were under the Law, once without the Law, ver. 9.* But the Apostle was born, and continued under the Law till he was a Christian; and therefore it cannot be true, that he was ever *without the Law*, before he came under it. --- Besides, if he speaks of himself, he must contradict what he saith of himself in other Places. *1 Thes. ii. 10. You are witnesses, and God also, how holily, and righteously, and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you.* Now could one that *is carnal and sold under sin, ver. 14. who is brought into Captivity to the Law of Sin, by sensual Appetite, ver. 23.* could such a Man call God and the Church to witness to his holy and unblameable Life? Or could such a one truly say, *he kept his Body under, and brought it into subjection?* *1 Cor. ix. 27.* Or could he honestly declare, *he knew nothing by himself?* *1 Cor. iv. 4.* Or that *he conversed in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom,* if he were a Man fleshly and sold under Sin; if he lived in the Practice of what his own Conscience condemned as evil and hateful? If he was brought into Captivity to the Law in
his

his Members, how could he propose himself a Pattern of Holiness to Christians? 1 Cor. xi. 1. *Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.* Phil. iv. 9. *Those things which ye have --- heard and seen in me, do.* Or, if this were his Character, how could he answer the Accusation of his Enemies, 2 Cor. x. 2, 3. *that he walked according to the flesh?* which yet he denieth with the greatest Assurance.

BESIDES, doth he not plainly suppose the Person, of whom he speaks, is not delivered from the Slavery of Sin, and from Death, the Condemnation of the Law, when he maketh him cry out, *ver. 24. O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?* And how can this agree with the Apostle's Case, who was *in Christ*, exempt from Condemnation, and *freed from the Law of Sin and Death*, by *the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus?* Chap. viii. 2.

IT is no Objection, that he here speaks in the first Person [*I*], for so he doth in other Places, where it is manifest he doth not mean Himself. See *Rom. iii. 7. 1 Cor. vi. 12. --- x. 22, 30. --- xiii. 1, 2, 3.*

THAT he speaks not of any regenerate Person whatsoever is also, I think, very clear. Because it is the constant Instruction of the

Gospel, that we *mortify the Deeds of the Flesh*; and the certain Rule of the Gospel, that all who are born of God, and are in *Christ*, have really *mortified* the *Flesh* with the *Lusts*, *Gal. v. 24.* But for a Proof of this we need go no further than the Chapter which is before this seventh Chapter, and that which followeth after it. *Chap. vi. ver. 1. What shall we [Gentiles] say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid: how shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Ver. 6. Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. Ver. 12. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Ver. 13. Neither yield you your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead; and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. Ver. 19. As ye have yielded your members servants to iniquity, unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness, unto holiness.*

THIS certainly and infallibly is the true Christian Character: And if so, judge you, whether he speaks of a Person in such a happy State, when he saith, *Chap. vii. 14. I am carnal, sold under sin. Ver. 15. For that which I do, I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. Ver. 18. For*

to will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good I find not. Ver. 19. For the good that I would, I do not ; but the evil that I would not, that I do. Ver. 23. I see another law in my members warring against the law in my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin and death.

AND if a Person in these deplorable Circumstances of Bondage and Subjection to Sin, can be in a regenerate State, can be in *CHRIST JESUS*, how is this consistent with *Chap. viii. 1.* *There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in CHRIST JESUS, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit ? Ver. 2. For the law of the Spirit of life, in CHRIST JESUS hath made me free from the law of sin, and of death. Ver. 5. For they that are after the flesh, do mind the things of the flesh : but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death ; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Ver. 7. The carnal mind is enmity to God. --- Ver. 8. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. Ver. 9. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. Ver. 12. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. Ver. 13. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die : but if ye through the*

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Spirit

Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. Ver. 14. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they [alone] are the sons of God.

THIS again is undeniably the true Christian Character. But is not this Character directly opposite to that in the foregoing *Chapter*? Is it not easy for any pious Mind, that is willing to understand the Scriptures, to see, that the Apostle's Language in *Chap. viii.* as well as in *Chap. vi.* where he certainly doth describe the Life and Temper of a true Christian, is in a quite different Strain from that in *Chap. vii*?

BUT the Truth will appear still more evident if we look into the whole Argument: which I fear you will not take in, unless you open your Bible, and keep a strict Eye upon the Place as we go along. Observe then; the Apostle having in the five first Chapters established the Doctrine of Justification by Faith, proceeds to shew the Christian Obligations to Sanctity of Life. And first addresseth himself in *Chap. vi.* to the *Gentiles*, and in *Chap. vii.* turns to the *Jews*; where he affirms, that they were disengaged from the *Law*, as a Ministration of Death, *ver. 1 -- 4.* Next he demonstrateth, this was a great Benefit and Privilege, by comparing the State of Sinners under the *Law* (as

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distinguished from the *Gospel*) with their State when favoured with the Grace of the *Gospel*. In order to this he lays down two general Propositions; the first affirming the State of the *Jews in the flesh*, and having no Relief but from the Law, *ver. 5. For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sin, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.* And upon this Proposition he discourseth to the end of the Chapter. The other Proposition he layeth down, *ver. 6. But now, under the Gospel, we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held, that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.* And upon this Proposition he discourseth in *Chap. viii.* He then that would understand this seventh Chapter, must, while he is reading from the seventh Verse, all along keep the fifth Verse in his Mind: for the Apostle is explaining and commenting upon that fifth Verse quite to the end of the Chapter. He is arguing with the *Jew* concerning the Insufficiency of the Law of *Moses* (as distinguished from the *Gospel*) for Sanctification. Now this was a tender Point; for the *Jew* was greatly prejudiced in Favour of his Law; he boasted, and rested in his Law. And therefore the Apostle useth every honest Artifice to handle this ungrateful Subject in the most inoffensive Manner. Through the whole Chapter he nameth, as we say, no

Names. Evidently he addresseth the *Jew*, but he suppresseth his Name. He don't say, *we Jews*, or *ye Jews*; that would have been too blunt and open. But to the seventh Verse 'tis *we*; *we are dead to the Law*; *when we were in the Flesh*; *we are delivered from the Law*, joining himself with them. And when the Subject grows more harsh, he taketh it wholly to himself, and 'tis *I* to the end of the Chapter. *I had not known Sin*; *I was alive without the Law once*, meaning not himself, but the *Jew*, or *Jews* in the *Flesh*, and under the *Law*. Again, he introduces *SIN* as a Person, and represents that as the Cause of the *Jews* being slain or condemned to Death by the *Law*. But the most masterly Stroke of honest Skill is laying the Structure of his Discourse in such a manner as to demonstrate the Insufficiency of the *Law* under colour of vindicating it. He had no Design to vilify the *Law*. No; *the Law is holy, and the Commandment holy, and just, and good*. And yet in this covert Way he clearly shews three Things. 1. That the *Law* requireth the most extensive Obedience, *ver. 7.* discovering Sin in all its Branches. 2. That it gives Sin a deadly Force, subjecting every Transgression to the Penalty of Death, *ver. 8 to 14.* And yet, 3. Supplieth neither Help nor Hope to the Sinner, but leaveth him under the Power of Sin, and the Sentence of Death, *ver. 14. to the end of the Chapter.* He suppresseth

poseth the *Jew* would allege; “ But the
“ Law is holy, and spiritual; and I assent to
“ it as good, as a right Rule of Action that
“ ought to be observed; yea, I esteem it
“ highly, I glory and rest in it, convinced of
“ its Truth and Excellency. And is not
“ this enough to constitute the Law a suf-
“ ficient Principle of Sanctification?” No,
Wickedness doth not extinguish a Sense of
Truth. A Man may assent to the best Rule
of Action, and yet still be under the Domi-
nion of Lust and Sin, from which nothing
can deliver him effectually but a Principle and
Power communicated from the *Fountain of
Life*. Here the Apostle subdivideth the Man
in the *Flesh* into two figurative Persons, or
Principles, two *I*s. The one *I*, or Principle
assents to the Law as good, &c. *ver.* 16.
This Principle he expressly tells us, *ver.* 22.
is the *inward Man*, or the rational Faculty.
The other *I*, or Principle transgressed the
Law, *ver.* 23. And this Principle he ex-
pressly tells us is the *Flesh*, *ver.* 18. *the Law
in the Members*, or sensual Appetite, *ver.* 23.
And he concludes in the last Verse, That these
two Principles were consistent in one and the
same Man. *So then with the MIND I my-
self*, ΑΥΤΟΣ ΕΤΩ, I the same real, proper Per-
son, *serve the Law of God: but with the
FLESH the Law of Sin*. Which clearly dis-
covers his true Drift and Argument, namely,
to convince the *Jew* he might approve the
Law,

Law, and yet not be sanctified by it. For a wicked Man hath in him two *I's*, or Principles, namely, REASON, which may shew him his Duty and Obligations; and APPETITE, which may enslave his better Powers, and keep him in a vicious Course, notwithstanding he sees and knows better Things.

'TIS of great Moment to understand the Apostle rightly. Therefore I crave you would carefully attend to the following Paraphrase of the whole Chapter.

ROMANS, Chap. vii.

NOTE, where the Star * is prefix'd in the Text, I have varied a little from our Translation, but with a strict Regard to the Force and Order of the original *Greek*.

*Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as * it liveth.*

long as it subsists, or is in Force.

2. *For the woman which hath an husband, is bound by the law to her husband*

KNOW ye not, Brethren, (for I am now speaking to the *Jews* who understand the Law of *Moses*) that the Law hath Dominion over a Person, and obligeth him to be subject to it, only so

2. To explain my Meaning by a familiar Instance; a married Woman is bound by

by the Law to her Husband while he liveth: But when her Husband is dead, she is discharged from the Law which obligeth her to matrimonial Fidelity.

so long as he liveth: but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.

3. So then, if, while her Husband liveth, she becometh another Man's Wife, she incurs the Character of an Adulteress: But when her Husband is dead, she is free from the Law which confineth her Affection and Duty to him alone; and is no Adulteress, if she marrieth another Man.

3. So then if while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law, so that she is no Adulteress, tho' she be married to another man.

4. IN the same manner, my Brethren, the Law, which was once your Husband, is dead, and you are quite disengaged from it by *Christ's* assuming a Body, and thro' his Death abolishing the Law; that you might be married to another Husband, even to him who is risen again from the Dead, and thereby hath given Assurance to all Men, that Death, the Curse of the Law, is abolished, that under this encouraging Hope we may all of us,

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4. Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

Jews and Gentiles, bring forth the Fruit of such holy Actions as will secure to us the highest Glory and Happiness in the Favour of God *.

5. *For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.*

5. [AND this to you *Jews* in particular is a most desirable and happy Change of State:] For under the LAW when we were sunk into vicious Habits, sinful Passions, which subsisted in us notwithstanding the Law, working in our sensual Part, did bring forth those Transgressions, which by the Sentence of the Law subjected us to Death, without any Hopes of being restored to Life †.

* *Ye are become dead to the Law.*] A *Metathesis*, for *the Law is become dead to you*. This is one Instance of *St. Paul's* Address. To have said, *the Law is dead*, would have shock'd a *Jew*; therefore he wisely chooseth to say, *you are dead to the Law*. Which is, in effect, the same thing: for the Relation is dissolv'd, which forever of the Parties dieth.

† *The Motions of Sins which were by, or under, or notwithstanding, the Law.* Τα δια τς νομς. See *Locke*. So *Chap. iv. 11.* That he might be the father of all them that believe, δι' ἀκροβυστίας, under Uncircumcision, or, though, notwithstanding they be not circumcised. And *1 Tim. ii. 15.* Σωθησεται δε δια της τεκνογονίας, But she shall be saved under, in the State of, or notwithstanding the Procreation of Children; or although she be engag'd in the Procreation of Children, in Opposition to a State of Virginity. See *Mr. Pyle* upon the Place, who, I doubt not, hath given the true Sense of that Text.

6. BUT

6. BUT now under the GOSPEL we have done with the Rigour of the Law, the condemning Power thereof, which bound us in everlasting Chains, being abolished; that we might serve God with a new Spirit, a Heart animated by the Grace and Hopes of the new Life-giving Dispensation, and not in the old Letter, not as under the weak, lifeless Dispensation of the Law, which is but a mere naked Letter, only commanding Duty, and condemning the Breach of it, but supplying neither Hope nor Strength for our Recovery when once we have broke it.

6. But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of Spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.

7. [IN those two Propositions you have a summary Description of the different Natures of the *Law* and *Gospel*. I shall more fully explain both in order. And as to the first you may reply,] JEW. What do you mean by saying, *sinful Passions which subsisted in us notwithstanding the Law*? Do you vilify our Law, by charging it with favouring Sin? APOS. By no means. I am so far from suggesting that the Law favours any Sin, that

7, What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin but by the law; for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

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I am persuaded we should not have known Sin so certainly and precisely in all its latent Principles and minuteſt Branches but by the Law. For we ſhould hardly have known that Luſt, or irregular Deſire, is Sin, had not the Law ſaid, *Thou ſhalt not covet*, or indulge irregular Deſire in thy Heart. The Law extends to every Branch and Principle of Sin.

8. *Now ſin * having received advantage by the commandment, wrought in ME all manner of concupiſcence. For without the law ſin was dead.*

8. AND [to explain the reſt of the Proposition, *ver. 5.*] whereas SIN produces all manner of irregular Deſires in all Mankind, where it hath Power, in ME, the Jew, it produced them under this

further Circumſtance of having received a destructive Force from the Commandment, or the Law threatening Death to the Tranſgreſſors of it. For without the Law threatening Sin with Death, SIN had no ſuch destructive Force, or Advantage againſt us *.

9. FOR

* *Sin having received Force*] *αφορμην λαβουσα*, having received *Force, Advantage, impetum reſiliendi, ſubſidium*, a Recruit. We tranſlate it, as here, *Occaſion*, 2 Cor. xi. 12. Gal. v. 13. 1 Tim. v. 14. where manifeſtly it ſignifies, *Advantage* to do hurt. You gain the true Senſe of this Verſe, and the 11th by laying the Streſs upon ME, and reading it thus; *Sin wrought in ME*, as diſtinguiſhed from other Men, *all manner of Concupiſcence, having received Force by the Commandment*. It wrought in ME under *that* Circumſtance.

9. FOR before the Law of *Moses* was given, we *Jews* were alive: we were not under the Condemnation of Death for our Sins; for there was then no Law positively threatening Sin with Death: But when the Commandment, with the Threatening annexed, was given to us, then SIN revived, then it acquired a destructive Force, and became deadly to us †.

9. *For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.*

10. AND thus the Law, which in its own Nature is a Rule for obtaining Life, in the Issue subjected us unto Death.

10. *And the commandment which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.*

11. FOR, observe well, SIN being armed with a deadly Force from the Law threatening Death to the Transgressors of it, drew us *Jews* aside into Disobedience; and so, by Virtue of the Law, subjected us to Death, without giving us any Hopes of being again restored to Life.

11. *For sin *having received advantage by the commandment, deceived ME, and by it slew me.*

12. THERE-

† *I was alive without the Law.*] This is parallel to *Rom. v. 13.*—*Sin is not imputed where there is no Law.*

12. *Wherefore the law is holy; and the commandment holy, and just, and good.*

commandment is holy, just and good.

13. *Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But SIN: * that SIN might appear, working death in me by that which is good; that SIN might become exceeding sinful by the commandment.*

which subjected us to Death by the Law, justly threatening Sin with Death. Which Law was given us, that SIN might appear, might be set forth in its proper Colours, when we saw it subjected us to Death by a Law perfectly holy, just, and good, that SIN by the Commandment, by the Law, might be represented, what it really is, an exceeding great and deadly evil.

14. *For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am*

14. FOR we are all agreed, that the Law is spiritual, requiring Actions pure and rational, and quite opposite to those our carnal Affections do dictate: But I, the

the Sinner, am carnal, under the Dominion of sensual Appetite, and the Habits of Sin; and for that Reason condemned by the Law. The Fault is not in the Law, but in me the Sinner; as appears from hence;

15. THAT the Sin which the Sinner commits, is what he doth not allow with his Understanding and Reason: for what his Reason approves and dictates, that he doth not; but what he hateth, what is abhorrent from his Reason, that he doth, wickedly choosing what his own Conscience tells him is false and odious.

15. For that which I do, I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

16. Now, if a carnal Man doth those Things which are not the Choice of his own Reason, but the Dictates of his irregular Passions, then his Reason gives its Voice for the Law, and declareth it a true Rule of Life that ought to be observed.

16. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law, that it is good.

^c *Sold under Sin.*] He means a willing Slavery; as *Abab* had sold himself to work Evil, *1 Kings* xxi. 20. And the *Jews*, *Isai.* l. 1. *Ye have sold yourselves to your iniquities.* He don't mean the Sinner is forced to sin.

17. *Now then it is no more I that do it, but SIN that dwelleth in me.*

17. AND further I conclude, It is not I in the best Sense, it is not a Man's Reason, separately considered, that produceth the wicked Action ; but it is his sinful Propensities, his indulged Passions and Appetites, which have got the Possession and Government of him *.

18. *For I know that in me (that is, in my FLESH) dwelleth no good thing : for to will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good, I find not.*

18. For we find by Experience, that in us, I mean our fleshly Appetites, dwell-eth no good Thing. Those, undirected by the Mind, will never prompt us to any thing right, true, or holy. For notwithstanding to *will* is present, is adjoined to a Man ; notwithstanding God hath endowed him with Faculties to distinguish between good and evil, and to approve what is good ; yet being under the Government of fleshly Appetites, he is embarrassed and sadly defective in practising what he knows is good and right.

19. FOR

* Parallel to this is *Jam. i. 14. Every man is tempted when he is drawn aside of his own lust, and enticed.* For the Apostle cannot mean, that there is something in a Man which maketh him sin necessarily, whether he will or no ; for then he would not sin at all.

19. FOR what good Actions, his Reason choofes, those he, the Man in the Flesh, doth not: But on the contrary, he doth that Wickedness which his Reason disapproveth.

19. *For the good that I would, I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.*

20. NOW if he do what his Reason disapproveth, it is not (as I said before) *I*, the Man, in the best Sense, it is not his Reason separately considered, that produces the wicked Action; but the Prevalency of sensual Affections settled and ruling in his Heart.

20. *Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.*

21. SO that certainly true it is, a Man may be in such a State, that while his Reason approveth Obedience to the Law, the doing of Evil will attend him, and his indulged Appetites draw him into Disobedience.

21. *I find then a law, that when I would do good evil is present with me.*

22. FOR as to that *I*, which is the *inward Man*, the Mind or Reason, it is

22. *For I delight in the law of God after the INWARD MAN* ^c:

^c *Isai. lviii. 2.* It is said of a Nation, that did not do Righteousness; *They seek me daily, and DELIGHT to know my ways.*

granted, *the Jew in the Flesh* may esteem the Law of God :

23. *But I see another law in my MEMBERS warring against the Law in my MIND, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.*

23. BUT it is evident there is in his fleshly Appetites another *I*, another Principle of Action, which fighteth against, and conquers the Principle of Reason, captivating and enslaving him to the Principles of Wickedness, seated in the Lusts of the Flesh.

24. *O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this Death !*

24. AND now what shall a Sinner do in this miserable Situation ? He is under the Power of such Passions and Habits as the Law declareth to be sinful, and which even his own Reason disapproveth, but is too weak to conquer ; and at the same Time being a *Jew*, under the Law, he stands condemned to eternal Death by the Law for his wicked Compliances with them. How shall such a wretched, enslaved, condemned *Jew* be delivered from the Dominion of sinful Lusts, and the Curse of the Law, which subjecteth him to eternal Death * ?

25. HE

* *The Body*, I conceive, is the whole that concurs to subject me to Death.

25. HE is delivered and obtains Salvation, not by any Strength or Favour the Law supplieth, but by the Grace of God in our Lord *Jefus Chrift*; for which we are bound to be for ever thankful. To conclude, the Sum of what I have advanced concerning the Power of Sin in the sensual Man is this, namely, that the same Person in his *inward Man*, his Mind and Reason assenteth to and approveth the Law of God; and yet notwithstanding by his fleshly Appetites is brought under Servitude to Sin, and, being a *Jew*, subjected to the Curse of the Law †.

25. *I thank God, through Jefus Chrift our Lord. So then with the MIND * the same I serve the law of God; but with the FLESH the law of sin.*

CHAP. viii. I. Thus under the weak and lifeless Dispensation of the LAW, the Sinner remains in a deplorable State, without Help or Hope, enslaved to Sin, and sentenced to Death. But

CHAP. viii. I. ** But now there is no condemnation to them which are in Chrift Jefus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

† The ΕΩ, the *I*, of whom the Apostle here saith, ΑΤΤΟΖ ΕΩ, the *same I*, is manifestly the ΕΩ, the *I*, the Person spoken of in his preceding Argumentation. And here, after a very lively Touch upon the Grace of Redemption, he sums up what he had proved.

NOW under the GOSPEL the most encouraging Hopes smile upon us, and we have the highest Assurance, that all those who embrace the Christian Faith, notwithstanding by-past Transgressions, are quite exempt from ALL Condemnation ; if so be they make that Faith a Principle of Obedience, and do not choose to live in Wickedness according to the Instigation of fleshly Appetite ; but in Truth and Holiness, according to the Dictates of the *inward Man*, or the rational Faculty, &c †.

SHOULD we be mistaken in the Sense of any single Period in this Chapter, yet surely the Subject and Drift of the Apostle's Argument is evident beyond all Doubt. *Certainly* he runs a Comparison between the Law and Gospel with Regard to the *Jew in the Flesh*. In *Chap. vii.* he speaks infallibly of the LAW, and of the State of a Sinner under the LAW, which leaveth him enslaved to Sin without Help, and subjected to Death without Pardon. Then in *Chap. viii.* he undeniably turns to the GOSPEL, and shews what Provision is there made for Recovery from the Bondage of Sin to Sanctity and Happiness. Consequently

† ΟΥΔΕΝ ΑΡΑ ΝΥΝ. Αρα here is not *illative*, but strongly *affirmative*. *Nempe, utique*. See *Mat. xii. 28. Luke xi. 48. — xviii. 8. Acts vii. 1. 1 Cor. v. 10. — vii. 14. — xv. 14, 15, 18, &c.*

quently he cannot be supposed by the wretched Character, in *Chap. vii.* to describe the State of a Christian, unless he can be supposed to represent the *Gospel* as weak and defective as the *Law* itself. For if after Faith in *Christ*, and such Obedience to him as we can now perform, the Christian still remains under the Dominion of Sin, and the Condemnation of the Law, which is the true State described in *Chap. vii.* then the Grace of God is of no use to us, nor are we any nearer to Life, by being in *Christ*, and walking after the Spirit, according to our present Abilities: But still we want a new Redemption, and ought to cry out, *O wretched men, who shall deliver us, &c.*

BUT here it may be objected, *Are not even good and holy Men attended with sensual Appetites and Affections, and therefore may we not very justly apply to them the Apostle's Description of a Jew in the Flesh?* — To this I answer: It is undoubtedly true, that even good and holy Men are attended with various Appetites and Affections, and such as will exercise Vigilance, Self-denial, Faith and Patience, while they are in the Body. For this Cause St. Paul kept his Body under, and brought it into Subjection, lest that by any means, when he had preached to others, he himself should be a Cast-away. And the Apostolic Writings abound with Exhortations to Christians to possess

their Vessels in Sanctification and Honour, to watch and be sober, to abstain from fleshly Lusts, which war against the Soul. But still this will not justify us in applying what the Apostle saith here of the *Jew in the Flesh* to true Christians, to good and holy Men: Because though such have, and while in this World, will have, sensual Lusts and Affections to struggle with, yet they are not such Lusts as prevail and bring them into Captivity to Sin; for then they would lose their Character, and cease to be good and holy Men. They are not such Lusts as conquer them; but such as they oppose, conquer and mortify. And therefore it is false and injurious to true Religion to set them upon a Level with the *Jew here in the Flesh*, who is supposed to be conquered and brought *into Captivity to the Law of Sin and Death*.

BUT, you may say, *we find in Scripture that sometimes good Men have fallen foully into Sin.* — And what then? Doth it follow from thence all good Men are *in the Flesh, carnal and sold under Sin*; that they are brought *into Captivity to the Law of Sin and Death*? Surely no. Good Men have fallen into Sin; but their falling into Sin doth not denominate them good Men, but their recovering themselves again to Repentance. For had they remained under the Power of Sin, *carnal and sold under Sin*, they would for ever
have

have lost the Character of good Men, and really have been in the wretched Condition the Apostle describeth in this Chapter. All that we can learn from the Faults of good Men in Scripture is, that they are obnoxious to Temptation, and may be overcome if they are negligent and secure: And further, that, through the Mercy of God, it is possible he who hath sinned may see the Error of his Way, and return to the Obedience of the Just. But we cannot from the Faults of good Men infer, that there is no Difference between them and wicked Men who live habitually in Sin; or that *David*, when in Abhorrence of his Crimes, he humbled himself before God, renounced and forsook them, was not a whit better, as to the Principle in his Heart, but the same Man, as when he committed Adultery and Murther.

BUT the Prophet saith, *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, who can know it?* Jer. xvii. 9. *Answer.* Christians, too generally neglecting the Study of Scripture, content themselves with a few Scraps, which, though wrong understood, they make the Test of Truth, and the Ground of their Principles, in Contradiction to the whole Tenor of Revelation. Thus this Text hath been misapplied to prove that every Man's Heart is so desperately wicked, that no Man can know how wicked his Heart is.

But

But the Spirit is shewing the wretched Error of trusting in Man. *Ver. 5. Thus saith the Lord, cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord. Ver. 6. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh, &c. Ver. 7. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. Ver. 8. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, &c. And then (Ver. 9.) he subjoins a Reason which demonstrateth the Error of trusting in Man; The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, who can know it? We cannot look into the Hearts of those we trust: under great Pretences of Kindness they may cover the blackest Designs. But God, the universal Judge, he knows what is in every Man, and can preserve those who trust in him from the latent mischievous Counsels of the wicked and treacherous. Ver. 10. I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. This Text therefore doth not relate to the Difficulty which any Man hath to know his own Heart, but the Heart of those in whom he may confide.*

IT may be further urged, *Do we not experience, that we have corrupt and wicked Hearts? and that the Apostle's Description* (Rom.

(Rom. vii.) *but too well suits what we find in ourselves?*-- I answer, every Man can best judge what he finds in himself: But if any Man really finds his Heart is corrupt and wicked, it is the Duty of a Minister of the Gospel to exhort him earnestly to use those Means which the Grace of God hath provided for purifying ourselves from all Filthiness of Flesh and Spirit, and for perfecting Holiness, 2 Cor. vii. 1. Let such a corrupt Person, as he valueth the Salvation of his Soul, hear and learn the Truth as it is in *Jesus* (*Ephes. iv. 22.*) whereby he will be taught to *put off the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts*, and to *be renewed in the spirit of his mind*; and to *put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness*. To hear some Christians talk, one would imagine they thought it their Duty, and a Mark of Sincerity and Goodness to be always complaining of corrupt and desperately wicked Hearts, and consequently that they ought to have, or in Fact should always have, such Hearts to complain of. But let no Man deceive himself. A wicked and corrupt Heart is too dangerous a Thing to be trifled with. I would not here be thought to discourage the humble Sentiments every Man should have of himself, under our present Infirmities: But we may greatly wrong ourselves by a *false Humility*; and whoever carefully peruseth the New Testament will find, that, however we
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are obliged to repent of Sin, a Spirit of complaining and bewailing is not the Spirit of the Gospel ; neither is it any Rule of true Religion, nor any Mark of Sincerity, to have a corrupt Heart, or to be always complaining of such a Heart. No : The Gospel is intended to deliver us from all Iniquity, and to purify us into a peculiar People zealous of good Works, *Tit. ii. 14.* to sanctify us throughout in Body, Soul and Spirit, that we may *now* be Saints, may *now* have Peace and Joy in the Holy Ghost, and at length be presented without Spot or Blemish before the Presence of God. *Ephes. v. 25, 26, 27.* *Christ loved the Church, and gave himself for it, not that it might continue groaning in a State of Corruption and Wickedness, but that he might, even in this World, sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water, by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing ; but that it should be holy and without blemish.* And this is the invariable Sense of Revelation. Nevertheless it is manifestly true, that while we are in the Body we shall be exercised with the Infirmities and Passions thereof. But this is not our Corruption or Wickedness, but the Trial of our Virtue and Holiness in resisting and subduing every irregular Appetite. And it is the real Character of every true Christian, not that he feels he hath a corrupt and wicked Heart, but that he *crucifieth the flesh*

flesh with the affections and lusts, (Gal. v. 24.) and perfects holiness in the fear of the Lord.

A real Christian may say, my Heart is weak, and my Passions strong: but he is no real Christian, or the Gospel hath not had its proper Effects upon him, if he cannot at the same time truly say, I resist and restrain my Passions, and bring them into Captivity to the Laws of Reason and true Holiness. Whatever is evil and corrupt in us we ought to condemn; not *so* as that it shall STILL remain in us; that we may ALWAYS be condemning it; but, that we may SPEEDILY reform, and be EFFECTUALLY delivered from it; otherwise certainly we do not come up to the Character of the Disciples of *Jesus Christ*.

THEREFORE to give a direct and final Answer to the Objection taken from *Rom. vii.* we may from thence gather, that we are very apt, in a World full of Temptation, to be deceived and drawn into Sin by bodily Appetites; that when once we are under the Government of those Appetites, it is at least exceeding difficult, if not impracticable, to recover ourselves by the mere Force of Reason; and consequently that we stand in need of that Life-giving Spirit, which the Apostle mentions, *Chap. viii. 2.* and lastly, that the Case of those who are under a Law threatening Death to every Sin, must be quite deplorable, if they have no Relief from the Mercy
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of the Law-giver. Which sad Case, the *Jews*, who adhered to the Law, and rejected the Gospel, chose for themselves. But we cannot, from any thing in that *Chapter*, infer, that we come into the World infected and depraved with sinful Dispositions conveyed down to us from *Adam*, as the Effect of his Sin; (for the Apostle giveth not the least Intimation of any thing relating to *Adam*, or the Corruption of our Nature in and by him) nor that any Man sinneth necessarily, or is unavoidably made a Sinner, through the malignant Influence of some Principle, which it was never in his Power to command; for then he would be no Sinner at all. Much less can we infer, that the Apostle is describing his own Case, or the Case of any upright Christian; though it be true that *he* had, and that all upright Christians, while in the Body, have sensual Passions to resist and mortify. But then, as they are *in Christ*, it is their real Character, that they do resist and mortify those Passions, not that they are overcome, and brought into Captivity by them; which is the sad Case and Character described in the *Chapter* we have been examining. Which Character, if it is finally our own, we shall undoubtedly perish.

I HAVE been the longer upon this Passage of Scripture, not only for the sake of the present Argument, but to free Christians from

from a dangerous Snare into which, I fear, many have fallen, while from this *Chapter* they have concluded, that they might, by their Lusts, be hindered from doing the good they are convinced is their Duty, and by the Law in their Members be brought into Servitude to the Law of Sin, and yet, as to their spiritual State, be in as good a Condition as the Apostle *Paul* himself. A Persuasion which hath a manifest Tendency to give us too favourable an Opinion of the Workings of criminal Affections, to make us remiss in mortifying them, to encourage us to venture too far in sensual Indulgences, and to lull Conscience asleep when we are fallen under the Dominion of them. Or, if a better Mind preserveth a Man from these worst Consequences of this Mistake, yet, so long as it remains, he must rob himself of due Encouragement to pious Industry, and a chearful Progress in the Christian Course. For after all his upright Endeavours, he will imagine he maketh very small or no Advances in a religious Life. Still he is but where he was; still carnal and sold under Sin, *i. e.* still under the worst of Habits, and in the most wretched Condition. To make this good, common Infirmities are magnified into the blackest Crimes; and even imaginary Corruption and Guilt, inbred Corruption, and the Guilt of *Adams's* Sin, are admitted to disquiet the Conscience. And such untoward Sentiments cannot

not fail of infeebling Hope, Love, and Joy. The Gospel is glad Tidings of great Joy, which introduceth a blessed, glorious, and lively Hope, giveth us the most pleasing Sentiments of the divine Love, inspireth a Comfort and Peace far superior to all temporal Enjoyments, and expressly requireth us to *rejoice in the Lord, to hold fast the confidence of hope, to rejoice in hope*: But what Room can there be in our Breasts for Joy and Hope if we still conceive ourselves to be in a State the Scripture every where condemns? If we are still carnal and sold under Sin, how can we lift up a chearful Face towards Heaven? We must be destitute of the Comfort which results from a Heart purified by the Faith of *Jesus*, and remain under gloomy Doubts and Fears, which no Marks or Evidences can dissipate.

IF you are satisfied with the Answers to those Objections, yet yerhaps you may be inclined to query,

QUEST. I. *Is not the Doctrine of Original Sin necessary to account for the being of Sin in the World? How comes it to pass there is so much Wickedness in the World if our Nature be not sinful?*

ANSW. *Adam's Nature, it is allowed, was very far from being sinful, and yet he sinned.*

And therefore the common Doctrine of *Original Sin* is no more necessary to account for the Sin that hath been, or is in the World, than it is to account for *Adam's Sin*. His Sin was not from a depraved Nature, but from his own disobedient Will: And so *must* every Man's Sin, and all the Sin in the World, how much soever, be, as well as his. And to this Cause alone the Scriptures constantly assign the Wickedness of all Men.

QUEST. II. *How then are we born into the World? And what Ideas ought we to have of our Being?*

ANSW. We are born into the World quite ignorant, *Job xi. 12. Vain man would be wise, though man be born like a wild asses colt.* We are born as void of actual Knowledge as the Brutes themselves. We are born with many sensual Appetites, and consequently liable to Temptation and Sin. But this is not the Fault of our Nature, but the Will of God, wise and good. For every one of our natural Passions and Appetites are *in themselves* good; of great Use and Advantage in our present Circumstances: And our Nature would be defective, sluggish or unarm'd, without them. Nor is there any one of them we can at present spare. Our Passions and Appetites are *in themselves*, wisely, and kindly too, implanted in our Nature, and become evil

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only by unnatural Excess, or wicked Abuse. The Possibility of which Excess and Abuse is also well and wisely permitted for our Trial. For without some such Appetites, our Reason would have nothing to struggle with, and consequently our Virtue could not be duly exercised and proved in order to its being rewarded. And the Appetites we have God hath judged most proper, both for our Use and Trial.

ON the other hand, we are born with rational Powers, which gradually, and as God hath been pleased to appoint, do grow up into a Capacity of the most useful Knowledge, tho' of different Degrees. Even the Heathen (*Rom. i. 20, 21.*) knew God, and might have glorified him as God. But under the glorious Light of the Gospel, we have very clear Ideas of the divine Perfections, and particularly of the Love of God, as our Father, and as the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour *Jesus Christ*; we see our Duty in the utmost Extent, and the most cogent Reasons to perform it; we have Eternity opened us, even an endless State of Honour and Felicity, the Reward of virtuous Actions, and the Spirit of God promised for our Direction and Assistance. And all this may and ought to be applied to the purifying of our Minds, and the perfecting of Holiness. To this Light, and to these happy Advantages we are born; for which we are bound for ever to praise and magnify the rich Grace of God in the Redeemer. And all Men in

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the World are born to *some Light*, and *some Advantages*, for which they are accountable ; tho' only according to the several Degrees of their Light and Advantages.

THIS Idea then we ought to have of our Being : *That* every thing in it is formed and appointed just as it should be : *That* it is a noble and invaluable Gift bestowed upon us by the Bounty of God, with which we should be greatly pleased, and for which we should be continually and heartily thankful : *That* it is a perishable thing, which needeth to be diligently guarded, and cultivated : *That* our sensual Inclinations are to be duly restrained and disciplined, and our rational Powers faithfully applied to their proper Uses : *That* God hath given us those rational Powers attended with those sensual Inclinations, as for other good Purposes, so in particular, to try us, whether we will carefully guard and look after this most invaluable Gift of his Goodness : And *that* if we do not, he will in Justice punish our wicked Contempt of his Love ; but if we do, he will graciously reward our Wisdom and Virtue. And all, and every one of these Considerations should be a Spur to our Diligence, and animate our Endeavours to answer these most high and most excellent Purposes of his Wisdom and Goodness.

QUEST. III. *How far is our present State the same with that of Adam in Paradise ?*

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ANSW.

ANSW. As to our mental Capacities, for any thing I can find in Scripture, they are the same as *Adam's*, saving so far as God sees fit to set any Man above or below *his* Standard. Possibly the Force and Acuteness of Understanding was much greater in our Sir *Isaac Newton* than in *Adam*. And there are many in the World probably much below *Adam*, in rational Endowments. And between the highest and lowest Degree of Reason amongst Men there are various Gradations, as our wise Creator seeth fit to give unto every one. We consist of Soul and Body : so did *Adam*. We have sensual Appetites : so had he ; for he lived by eating and drinking as we do. And in the single Instance of *Eve's* Sin we see *all that is now in the World* diffused thro' the various Branches of Iniquity, namely, *The Lust of the Flesh, the Lust of the Eye, and the Pride of Life*. He was upon Trial ; so are we. Many Men are overcome by Temptation ; and so was *Adam*. We are to leave this World, and enter upon another, an eternal State ; so probably was *Adam*.

BUT in these Things we differ. *Adam* was created in the Maturity of bodily Stature and mental Capacity ; we in the Ignorance and Weakness of Infancy. His Temptations were not many ; ours are various and multiplied ; not so much by the Appointment of God,

God, or the Difference of Circumstances, as by the increased Corruption of Mankind, and the many wicked Inventions they have found out to abuse God's Mercies, and pervert their own Minds. He had lesser, we greater Degrees of divine Assistance and Grace. He had no evil Examples before his Eyes, we have many. But then he had no good Examples; as he was free from the Disadvantage of the one, he wanted the Advantage of the other. Whereas had we come into the World with our *present Nature*, in an Age or Nation where Vice had been banished, Virtue of every kind universally practised, and the Grace of God as at present revealed, and had grown up under all the Advantages thence arising, I reckon we should have come into Being under Circumstances much more advantageous for Virtue and Piety, and for persevering in it, than *Adam*. Further, his Body was sound and hale; ours liable to Diseases. He exempt from Toil and Sorrow; we subject to both. He to pass out of the World, not by Death: it is appointed to us to die. And these last, Toil, Sorrow, Sickness and Death, we suffer in consequence of his one Act of Disobedience.

QUEST. IV. *But how is it consistent with the Justice of God, that we suffer at all upon account of Adam's Sin?*

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ANSW.

ANSW. Had God executed the Threatening upon *Adam*, and he, and his Posterity in him, had been cut off in the very Day he sinned, never to live, or have a Possibility of living any more for ever, it would have been no more Injustice to us, than if God had never created this World, or *Adam* in it. But now that we are, through the Grace of God, brought into Being, though we are obnoxious to Sorrow and Death, and in Consequence of *Adam's* Sin too ; yet this is not by way of PUNISHMENT to us, because we were not guilty of his Sin ; but by way of wise and gracious DISPENSATION, as I have endeavoured to shew in the *Appendix* to the First Part.

LET thus much suffice for answering Objections and Questions. Judge freely for your self ; for I am not infallible : but judge candidly ; for I have delivered my Sentiments honestly and impartially.

WE are next to enquire upon what true Grounds those Parts of our holy Religion stand, which the Schoolmen have founded upon the common Doctrine of *Original Sin*. This Doctrine they have one way or other connected with almost every Part of Religion ; but it will be sufficient to examine its sup-
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posed Relation to the two principal Articles of
REDEMPTION and REGENERATION.

I. REDEMPTION.

OUR Fall, Corruption, and Apostacy in *Adam* hath been currently made the Reason why the Son of God came into the World, and gave himself a Ransom for us. And,

1. THE Apostle affirmeth, *Rom. v. 18, 19.* That by the Righteousness and Obedience of Christ, all Men are delivered from the Condemnation, or Sentence of Mortality they came under, through *Adam's* one Offence and Disobedience. Thus far therefore the Redemption which is in *Christ* stands in Connection with *Adam's* first Transgression, as I have endeavour'd to shew in the *Appendix* to the First Part. But,

2. THE Redemption, or the Grace of God, in *Christ*, extends far beyond the Consequences of *Adam's* Transgression. For so the Apostle (*Rom. v. 15, 16, 17.*) expressly affirms, and by way of Caution too, that we might not mistake him, when he was discoursing upon this very Point. *But not as the offence [of Adam] so is the free gift, or grace of God in Christ.* 15. *For if through the offence of one many be dead; MUCH MORE the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ,*

hath ABOUNDED *unto many*. 16. *And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift : for the judgment was by ONE [Offence] to condemnation ; but the free gift is of MANY offences unto justification.* 17. *For if by man's offence DEATH REIGNED by one ; MUCH MORE they which receive, well improve, the ABUNDANCE of grace, and of the gift of righteousness, shall REIGN in LIFE by one, Jesus Christ.* Here you see plainly the Apostle asserts a Grace of God in *Christ* which *already* hath ABOUNDED, overflowed beyond the Effects and Consequences of *Adam's Sin* upon us ; and which hath respect, not to his *one Offence*, but to the many Offences, which Men have personally committed : not to the DEATH which REIGNED by him, but to the LIFE in which they who receive *Christ*, or the fore-mentioned *abounding of Grace in Christ*, shall hereafter REIGN for ever. The Death inflicted in Consequence of *Adam's Sin* is reversed in the Redemption in *Christ*. But that is not the whole Reason and End of Redemption by far, if we may trust an inspired Apostle. The grand Reason and End of Redemption is, *the Grace of God, and the Gift by Grace* ; the erecting and furnishing a Dispensation of Grace, for the more certain and effectual Sanctification of Mankind into the Image of God, the delivering them from the Sin and Wickedness, into which they might fall, or were already fallen ; To redeem them
from

from Iniquity, and bring them to the Knowledge and Obedience of God. And therefore,

3. THE Scriptures of the New Testament (excepting *Rom.* v. 12, &c. and *1 Cor.* xv. 21, 22. before explained) do always assign the actual Wickedness and Corruption of Mankind wherewith they have corrupted themselves, as the Reason and Ground (next to the Grace of God) of *Christ's* coming into the World. To produce all the Scriptures would be to transcribe a good Part of the New Testament. Let it suffice therefore to put you in Mind, that when the Apostle, *Rom.* i. 16, 17. is professedly demonstrating the Excellency and Necessity of Gospel Grace, (which is the same thing as the Redemption in *Christ*) for the Salvation of the World, he proveth it, not from the Estate of Sin and Misery into which they were brought by *Adam's* Fall, but from the Sin and Misery which they had brought upon themselves, by their own wicked departing from God. *Ver.* 21. *Because that when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish hearts were darkened.* And so on to the end of the Chapter. And as the *Gentiles*, so likewise the *Jews*, had corrupted themselves, and stood in need of Gospel Grace, and Redemption, as well as other Men, *Chap.* ii, iii. to *ver.* 19. Where he concludeth,

cludeth, he had from notorious Facts, and Scripture-Proofs, stopped every Mouth both of Jew and Gentile, and brought in the whole World guilty before God, insufficient for their own Justification upon the Foot of the Deeds of mere Law. And then goeth on; *but now the righteousness of God, or that Method of Salvation, which the gracious Lawgiver hath provided, is manifested to the World, &c.* for the Benefit of all Sorts of Men, (*Ver. 23.* For all stand in Need of it, *all having sinned and come short of the glory of God, i. e.* the Obedience of God) that they may be *justified freely by his grace, thro' the redemption which is in Christ, &c.* You see the Apostle groundeth the Grace of Redemption upon the actual Wickedness of Mankind, and upon no other Cause or Reason. So *Tit. iii. 3.* *For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.* *Ver. 4.* *But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour towards man appeared,* *Ver. 5.* — *According to his mercy he saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost,* *ver. 6.* *which he hath shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour.* *Ver. 7.* *That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.* *Gal. i. 4.* *He gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from this present evil world, i. e. from the lusts of the flesh;* *1 Pet. i. 18.* *We are redeemed from*

from a vain conversation. 1 John iii. 8. *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the Devil.* In short, (excepting the two Places above-
excepted, which relate only to reversing the Sentence of common Mortality) I know not of any Place in Scripture, where Redemption is not assigned, on God's Part, to his own free Grace; and, on Man's Part, to the Depravation and Corruption of the World wherewith they have depraved themselves. And I verily believe, it is not in the Power of any Man to bring any Text to the contrary.

4. THE Redeemer himself frequently speaks of the various Parts of his own great Work; such as enlightening the World, converting Sinners, raising the Dead, &c. But of redeeming us from the Sinfulness and Corruption of Nature derived from *Adam*, he saith not one Word in all the four Gospels. This, methinks, should appear very surprising to those who believe *Original Sin*, as commonly taught, is the principal Object of Redemption. For if that be true, why did not *Christ* tell us so? Can we suppose, upon any just Ground, it was not fit he should tell us? Rather should we not have found it distinguished emphatically in every Page of the Gospels, as a Matter relating to the true Knowledge of our spiritual State, as the Subject of the deepest
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Humiliation, and the only pernicious Principle against which all our Endeavours are to be levelled? But seeing he hath not said one Word about it, and seeing he spake exactly according to the Commission which the Father gave him, *John* xii. 49, 50. may we not safely conclude, it was no Part of his Commission to preach the common Doctrine of *Original Sin*?

It hath been delivered as a fundamental Truth, *That no Man will come to Christ, the second Adam, who is not first thoroughly convinced of the several things he lost in the first Adam.* — If so, then surely our Saviour, in his Ministry, would have laboured above all things to explain and inculcate the Pravity and Defilement of Nature we derive from *Adam*, and the eternal Damnation due to all Men upon that Account; as being, if our common Schemes are right, the only just and effectual Method to convince Sinners. But whereas he is so far from using this Method of drawing Men unto him, that he never, in any of his Discourses, so much as mentions *Adam* or the Corruption of our Nature in him; and whereas the Apostles also in their Sermons recorded in the *Acts*, and preached to all Sorts of Persons, are wholly silent upon this Head; and in their *Epistles* too, excepting the two Places which relate to the reversing the Sentence of common Mortality; we have
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just Reason to suspect this is, not only no proper Method of converting the World, but a Doctrine false, and superadded to the *Truth as it is in Jesus*. But,

5. ORIGINAL SIN, as it is *Guilt imputed*, is no Object of Redemption. Imputed Guilt is imaginary Guilt, which the Judge will think, and will have to be mine, though he knows it is not mine. Now in this Case there is nothing to be EFFECTED by a Redeemer. Upon Occasion of *Adam's* DISOBEDIENCE God might for wise and even beneficent Reasons subject all Mankind to the same Sentence of Mortality, which passed upon him: and for Reasons no less wise and beneficent he might appoint, that the Resurrection of the Dead should stand in relation to the OBEDIENCE of *Christ*. 'Tis highly becoming the universal Father, to bestow Benefits in a Way which shall promote moral Good. And here the Redeemer hath the noblest Work to do, in exhibiting before the World the most illustrious Virtue, as above all Things pleasing to God, and the Ground of all Happiness. But the only way, that I can see, of being redeemed from *imputed*, imaginary Guilt is, for the Judge to think (as he is in Justice bound) that the supposed Guilt is not mine, or that I am not guilty of a Sin I never committed.

II. REGENERATION.

WHY *must we be born again?* Answ. Because we are born in Sin. Our *Nature in Adam is corrupted, and utterly indisposed, disabled and made opposite to all that is spiritually good, and wholly inclined to all evil, and that continually* : Therefore we must be born again, before we can do any thing that is good and pleasing to God.

BUT upon these Principles it cannot be *our Duty* to be born again, and consequently not *our Fault* if we are not, because we are utterly disabled to all spiritual Good, and wholly inclined to all Evil. Accordingly it is common to find Divines asserting, that we are born again by some uncertain, arbitrary and irresistible Workings of the Spirit of God, which operate upon some few, and not upon others. Though the same Divines tell us, That if any are not born again, they should be condemned to everlasting Torments. Which is to embarrass Religion with inextricable Difficulties, and to fill the Minds of Christians with endless Perplexity and Confusion.

BUT *Regeneration, or being born again, born from above, or of the Spirit*, is a Gospel Doctrine ; and it is as much every Man's Duty

Duty to be born again, as it is to be a good and virtuous Man, or a true Christian. For, as I take it, to be born again, or of God, is no other than to attain those Habits of Virtue and Religion, which give us the real Character of the Children of God *. And what those Habits are, is every where in the Gospel explained, especially *Tit. ii. That we deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and live soberly, righteously and godly.* And why ought we to attain the Habits of Sanctity? *Because* without Holiness no Man shall see the Lord; and *because*, in the very Nature of Things, we cannot be holy without our own Choice and Endeavour; and lastly, *because* God hath endowed us with Understanding, and furnished us with all proper Means to enable us to gain a Character of Worth and Excellency.

THE LORD from Heaven informs us, *John iii. 3. Except a man be born again, or from above, he cannot see, possess or enjoy, the Kingdom of God.* This he delivers as a Truth of the greatest Importance, and thereby teacheth us,

I. THAT GOD, who delighteth in communicating his Goodness, hath been pleased

* I stand not here upon the Scripture Sense of Terms. It is enough to my Purpose if the Doctrine, I am explaining, is Scripture Doctrine, however the Terms may sometimes happen to be applied.

to erect a Kingdom or Family, *Ephes.* iii. 14, 15. a Society of rational Beings, united in and under him, for his Glory and their mutual Happiness. This is every where spoken of in the New Testament, and is a Scheme highly worthy of the *Father of Lights*, the only Fountain of Being and Enjoyment.

II. WHEREAS earthly Kings cannot choose their Subjects, but must take them as they find them, it is not so with the supreme Lord : He chooseth his Subjects, and will finally admit no Members into his Kingdom, that are not rightly disposed to relish and promote the Happiness and Welfare thereof.

III. ALL Wickedness and Ungodliness is quite contrary to the Nature and Ends of this Kingdom. It is a Kingdom wherein the holy and righteous God reigneth and governeth, and it is erected purely for his Honour and Glory, and the Good of his Creation ; that all who are endowed with Understanding and Reason may dwell with him as the Objects of his Love ; be happy in him, and in the mutual Enjoyment of one another ; may be subservient to his Wisdom and Goodness, and employ their Powers and Capacities in any useful Way to which he shall call and direct them. This may well be allowed to be the Nature of
God's

God's peculiar Kingdom. Now, it is most evident without an habitual Subjection of the Will to Reason and Truth, or to the Will of God, none can be fit to be Members of this Society or Kingdom. Unless there is a good Understanding and sound Judgment to distinguish between good and evil: Unless there is a full Persuasion, that all Reverence, Love and Obedience is due to God, our Creator, Lord and Father: Unless his Favour is preferred before all other Enjoyments whatsoever: Unless there be a Delight in the Worship of God, and in Converse with him: Unless every Appetite be brought into Subjection to Reason and Truth: And lastly, unless there is a kind and benevolent Disposition towards our Fellow-creatures, how can any Mind be fit to dwell with God, in his House and Family, to do him Service in his Kingdom, or to promote the Happiness of any Part of his Creation? The Original of Wickedness is Error, and the Fruits and Effects of it Alienation from God, and Mischief to all that are about us. He therefore that seeth and maketh no Difference between good and evil, right and wrong; who discerneth no Glory and Excellency in Holiness, and Righteousness; nothing false, odious and pernicious in Sin; who thinks irreverently of God, and habitually transgresseth his holy Laws; who fondly embraceth any thing in the Creature in Contempt of God's Favour and Blessing

ing ; who preferreth the Gratification of his own Lusts to the Love and Obedience of supreme Perfection, and will rather do what he knoweth is evil, than cross his own absurd Appetites : He that is of a wrathful, cruel, proud, envious, malicious, bitter, unforgiving, uncharitable Spirit ; such a one, I say, is of a Character plainly inconsistent with the Honour of God, and the Prosperity of his Kingdom. Such a one cannot be *a vessel unto honour, sanctified and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work*. On the contrary, such a one is unclean, and unmeet for any Use, Office or Employment under the great Master of the spiritual and heavenly Family, and prepared and disposed only to every evil Work ; to do Wrong and Hurt to his fellow Subjects. And for God to take such a one into his Kingdom, would be to take Error, Rebellion and Mischief into his Kingdom. Hence we read, *Mat. xiii. 41*. That the *Son of man*, who, under the Father, is set at the Head of this Kingdom, will, at his second Coming, *gather out of it, all things that offend, and them which do iniquity*. Whatever is contrary to Reason and Truth, whatever is opposite to the Will, Purity and Perfections of God, whatever is offensive and mischievous to his Creation, he will gather out of this Kingdom, and cast into Perdition ; which is perfectly right, and agreeable

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not only to JUSTICE, but even to GOODNESS itself.

IV. IT is *one thing to be born into God's Creation, and another thing to be born into his peculiar Kingdom.* This should be carefully observed. All Creatures whatsoever come into Being, by no Virtue of their own, but by a sovereign Act of God's Power and Wisdom. In this Respect there is no Difference between the meanest Reptile under our Feet, and the highest Archangel in Heaven. Whatever the natural Endowments of any Creatures are, they are wholly and solely the Workmanship and Gift of God: and though much Praise and Honour is due to him on this Behalf, yet none is due to them; on this Account they are neither virtuous, nor praise-worthy, seeing their natural Excellencies are not their own Choice, not from themselves, but from God. And therefore it is most evident, that in the Case of those Creatures which are endowed with Reason, and can understand Truth and Falshood, Good and Evil, Right and Wrong, that their mere Existence, of how excellent a Degree soever that be, is not enough to recommend them to the Esteem and Approbation of their Creator. For every Creature must live according to the Powers and Capacities it hath received; otherwise it hath received them in vain, and doth not answer the Ends of its Creation. Though its

Powers are of the very noblest Kind, yet they are plainly useleſs, if not duly applied. For of what Uſe and Value is the largeſt Capacity of Underſtanding, which underſtandeth nothing; or that is drawn into Error by ſelfiſh Affections? Or how can God approve and eſteem that Power of chooſing and reſuſing, which is employed only in chooſing what is Evil, and reſuſing what is Good? Nay, muſt he not diſlike and condemn it as corrupt and perverſe? It is therefore very clear, that in order to Acceptance with God, and an Admittance into his peculiar Kingdom, it is not enough for an intelligent Being to exiſt; but moreover it is abſolutely neceſſary, *that* it learn to employ and exerciſe its Powers ſuitably to the Nature and Ends of them; *that* it be created anew; *that* it put on the new Nature of right Action, of true Holineſs; *that* it be exerciſed in Obedience and Subjection to God, and attain to a Habit of diſcerning between good and evil, and of following ſtedfaſtly that which is good and holy, juſt and true. So that you ſee, it is one thing to be born into God's Creation, and another to be born into, or qualified for, his peculiar Kingdom. The former dependeth entirely upon God's ſovereign Pleaſure, in giving Life and Being when and as he pleaſeth: The other depends upon a right Uſe and Application of that Life and Being, and is the Privilege only

only of those wise and happy Spirits which attain to a Habit of true Holiness.

Now this explains to us,

I. THE Dispensation our first Parents were under before the Fall. They were placed in a Condition proper to engage their Gratitude, Love and Obedience ; yet so, that they were also under a particular Trial, by one Tree in the Garden, called, *the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*, because (probably) it was the appointed Means to teach, and exercise them in, the discerning between moral Good and Evil, Obedience and Disobedience ; and to form their Minds to an habitual Subjection to the Law and Command of GOD, without which, whatever their natural Capacities were, they could not be received into his spiritual Kingdom. And this also gives us a true Idea of the Fall. Which was not surely, as it hath been commonly represented, a *falling from* a State of perfect Holiness, but indeed a *falling short* of such a State. For if *Adam* had been originally perfect in the Habits of Holiness, then what Occasion was there for any further Trial and Proof of his Holiness ?

2. THIS explains to us the Dispensation we are under, and the Reason why we ought to be born again. Not because we are born

wicked ; or are by *Nature corrupt, quite disabled, indisposed, and made opposite to all that is spiritually good, and wholly inclined to all Evil.* For in plain Truth this would be a good Reason why we should not be born again, because then we should be incapable of it, as being no moral Agents : But we must be born again, *because* we are endowed with rational Faculties, whereby we are capable of knowing, obeying, loving, and enjoying God ; *because* God hath graciously opened to us a Door into his Kingdom ; and *because* without a right Use and Application of our Powers, were they naturally ever so perfect, we could not be judged fit to enter into the Kingdom of God.

3. THIS giveth a good Reason why we are now in a State of Trial and Temptation ; namely, to prove and discipline our Minds, to season our Virtue, and to fit us for the Kingdom of God ; for which, in the Judgment of infinite Wisdom, we cannot be qualified, but by overcoming our present Temptations. And we know not, but that the best and most glorious, that now are in that happy State, have gone through some such Course of Trial as we now are under.

4. LASTLY, This Account may serve to give a right and generous Opinion of this Doctrine. It should not be regarded as a
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narrow Truth, that belongs only to us in this Earth, and fit only for the Meditation of the Superstitious and Melancholy, but to be disdained by great and free Spirits. *Regeneration* is a noble Truth, and fit for the Study of the most refined and elevated Minds. It is the Foundation, the grand Law and Rule of God's peculiar Kingdom ; without the Observance of which, no Beings whatever shall be admitted to the Offices and Honours of it.

AND upon the whole you may see, that REGENERATION, or our gaining the Habits of Virtue and Holiness, stands upon a firm and rational Bottom, without taking in any one Part or Particle of the common Doctrine of *Original Sin*: in which, so far as I can discern, no Branch of true Religion is any ways concerned, but standeth perfect and entire without it.

HOWEVER, that I may not seem to overlook the Doctrine of the SPIRIT'S ASSISTANCE, I shall briefly observe ; that although when the *Holy Ghost*, or the Gifts of the Spirit, are mentioned in the epistolary Part of the New Testament, most commonly thereby the extraordinary Effusion, and miraculous Gifts peculiar to the Apostolic Age, are intended ; yet I make no Doubt, the Communication and Influence of the Spirit of

God in all Ages, to assist our sincere Endeavours after Wisdom, and the Habits of Virtue, is a Blessing spoken of, and promised in the Gospel. But never as supposing any natural Corruption or innate Pravity of our Minds. The Influence of the Divine Power is necessary to the Production of the Fruits of the Earth, without which our Industry, or any other Cause, can have no Effect. Yet all the World knows the Influence of the Divine Power is no ways inconsistent with, but ever supposeth human Application, and the natural Aptitude of the Soil to receive and impregnate the Seed cast into it. In like manner, the Aids of the Spirit of God (who can work upon our Minds in Ways and Degrees beyond our Knowledge) are perfectly consistent with our Diligence, and are so far from supposing the *previous* Inaptitude of our Minds, or that our Powers are *utterly indisposed, disabled and made opposite unto all that is spiritually good, and wholly inclined to all evil*, that our *previous* Desire of the Spirit's Assistance is expressly made the Condition of our receiving that best of *spiritual Goods*. Luke xi. 9. *And I say unto you, ask, and it shall be given; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.* 10. *For every one that ASKETH receiveth; and he that SEEKETH findeth; and to him that KNOCKETH it shall be opened.* 11. *If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone,*

stone, &c. 13. *If ye then being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children ; how much more shall your heavenly Father give the holy Spirit TO THEM THAT ASK HIM.* And this is agreeable to the whole Tenour of Revelation, not excepting even the miraculous Gifts of the Spirit, which were not conferred but upon a previous embracing the Faith of the Gospel : and also to the Reason of Things ; for it is highly fitting we should make a due use of the Powers we already have, before we receive, and in order to our receiving, further Help.

FOR a Conclusion, give me leave to suggest a few Things worthy of serious Consideration.

Is it not highly injurious to the God of our Nature, whose Hands have fashioned and formed us, to believe our Nature is originally corrupted, and in the worst Sense of Corruption too ? And are not such Doctrines, (which represent the Divine Dispensations as unjust, cruel and tyrannical) the Source of those gloomy and blasphemous Thoughts that infest and distract many good and honest Souls ? For I am apt to think common Experience will make it good, that the more any study, and persuade themselves of the Truth of such Points, the more they are liable to dreadful, terrifying Apprehensions
of

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of the Deity, and the most ugly Thoughts
and Injections.

I AM ready to make all proper Allowance for the Prejudices of Education: But is it fair and fitting, can it be pleasing to God, to look only at the Imperfections of our Being? Is it not impious *falsely* and *unreasonably* to magnify them, while we overlook, or but little regard, our Blessings and Advantages? Is this the Way to give Glory to God, our good and wise Maker? to increase our Thankfulness, or to excite to proper Diligence in improving the noble Gifts he hath bestowed upon us? Rather, is it not to pick Quarrels with his Work, and to disparage his Gifts? Hath it not a Tendency to chill and benumb our Spirits, to cool our Love, to damp holy Joy and Praise, which should be the Life of a Christian, and to cut the Sinews of chearful Endeavours? No Wonder we creep on in our Christian Course half desponding when our Hearts are clogged with such **Weights** as these? Is this our Kindness and **Love** to him that made us? Do we thus requite our Father by running down and lessening his Beneficence? To disparage our Nature, is to disparage the Work and Gifts of God.

DoTH not the Doctrine of *Original Sin* teach you to transfer your Wickedness and Sin to a wrong Cause? Whereas in Truth
you,

you ought to blame or condemn *yourself alone* for any wicked Lusts, which prevail in your Heart, any evil Habits you have contracted, any sinful Actions you commit, you lay the whole upon *Adam*. *Adam*, you say, is the Cause of the Corruption of your Nature, and the Corruption of your Nature is the Cause of all your actual Transgressions in Thought, Word, and Deed. — The World is very corrupt, and you are more or less stained with the Pollution. True : But you refer it to a wrong Cause, and such a Cause as maketh it cease to be Corruption, or really charges God with it. And what good End do you promote by this ? Humiliation and Repentance ? No. The Love of God ? No. No, but you embarrass, perplex and hinder all these Virtues, and all other religious Duties.

WHAT can be more destructive of Virtue than to have a Notion that you must, in some Degree or other, be necessarily vicious ? And hath not the common Doctrine of *Original Sin* a manifest Tendency to propagate such a Notion ? And is it not to be feared so many Children of good Parents have degenerated, because in the Forms of religious Instruction they have imbibed ill Principles, and such as really are contrary to Holiness ? For to represent Sin as *natural*, as altogether *unavoidable*, is to embolden in Sin, and to give not only an Excuse, but a Reason for sinning.

IF we believe we are in Nature worse than the BRUTES, and this Doctrine represents us as such, what Wonder if we act worse than BRUTES? The Generality of Christians have embraced this Persuasion. And what Wonder if the Generality of Christians have been the most wicked, lewd, bloody, and treacherous of all Mankind? Certainly nothing generous, great, good, pure can spring from Principles, to say the least, so low and groveling.

IT is Matter of great Admiration, that the Christian Religion, which is calculated and intended to raise our Hearts above the Riches and Splendour of the World, and to teach us Self-denial, Humility, Love, Goodness, Innocence, &c. should be perverted to the vile Purposes of temporal Wealth, Power, Pride, Malice, and Cruelty. And to me 'tis no less surprising, that whereas the Christian Religion is wonderfully adapted to inspire the most pleasing and joyful Sentiments of the Divine Goodness and Love; the Gospel hath been so far turned the wrong Way, that Christians have lost even a Sense of the Beneficence of God in giving them a rational Nature; and are so far from rendering the Praise of this his first and original Liberality, that it is the common Persuasion of every Christian, that he ought, all the Days of his Life, to look
upon

upon his Nature with Abhorrence ; and, instead of being thankful, to be humbled for it. Which is to abhor and be humbled for the Munificence of his Maker. For certainly the Nature of every Man that comes into the World, and as he comes into the World, can be no other than the WORK and GIFT of GOD. This, I confess, seems to me a Master-piece of the *old Serpent's* Subtilty, who hath been for a long time let loose to deceive the Nations. *Rev. xx. 3.*

MUST it not greatly sink the Credibility of the Gospel, to suppose it teacheth the common Doctrine of *Original Sin*? For if it is easily seen to be an Absurdity, who can believe that to be a Revelation from God which is chargeable with it? And I make no Doubt this, with other pretended Principles of the like Nature, have filled our Land with Infidels. Such Doctrines set Religion in direct Opposition to Reason and common Sense, and so render our rational Powers quite useless to us, and consequently Religion too. For a Religion which we cannot understand, or which is not the Object of a rational Belief, is no Religion for reasonable Beings.

Is not this Doctrine hurtful to the Power of Godliness, not only as it filleth Mens Heads with frightful Chimeras, and loads their Consciences with the heaviest Fetters of Error,

Error, but also as it diverts their Thoughts from the heavenly and substantial Truths of Religion? as it throws the Method and Means of our Salvation into Perplexity and Confusion, and renders all religious Principles uncertain? We are made Sinners we know not how, and therefore must be sorry for, and repent of, we know not what. We are made Sinners in an arbitrary Way, and we are made Saints in an arbitrary Way. But what is arbitrary can be brought under no Rules.

WHICH Notions are most likely to operate best upon Parents Minds, and most proper to be instilled into a Child? That it is born a Child of Wrath, that it cometh into the World under God's Curse, that its Being, as soon as given, is in the worst and most deplorable State of Corruption? Or, that it is born under the Smiles of Heaven, endowed with noble Capacities, and formed in Love, for the Glory of God and its own Happiness, if his Goodness is not despised and neglected?

MUST it not lessen the due Love of Parents to Children, to believe they are the vilest and most wretched Creatures in the World, the Objects of God's Wrath and Curse? And what Encouragement have they to bring them up in the Nurture and Admonition of the

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Lord,

Lord, if they think they are under the *certain* Curse of God to eternal Damnation, and but under a very *uncertain* Hope of his Blessing and Favour?

YOUNG People are exhorted to *remember their Creator*: But how can they remember him without the utmost Horror, who, it is supposed, hath given them Life under such deplorable Circumstances?

To dispose Youth to Conversion, is it not Motive enough, that, although they are not already in a State of Perdition, yet they will be so, they will destroy themselves, if they do not put on the Habits of Holiness?

LASTLY, consider seriously, are those that look into the Scriptures, and compare the Doctrines of Men with the pure Word of God, to be blamed or commended? Is it not our Duty to search the Scriptures? It was the Sin of the *Pharisees* and *Jewish Doctors*, that they made the Commandment of God of none Effect by their Traditions; and shall we incur the like Guilt by making the Love and Goodness of God of none Effect by our traditionary Doctrines? What other Way is there of contending for the Faith once delivered to the Saints, but by seeking for it in the Word of God? Do we not blame the *Papists* for their implicit Faith, for believing

as the Church believeth? And how are we better than they, if we take up our religious Principles upon Trust, and do not carefully adjust them by the Standard of Divine Revelation? Perhaps those who have gone before us, who yet may be allowed to have been pious and virtuous Men, did not see the Truth in this and some other Cases; and good Reasons may be given why they did not: But must not we therefore endeavour to understand it? Must their Knowledge be the precise Measure of ours? or must the Truth and Word of God be limited by any human Understanding whatsoever? What if they had known but one half of what they did know, must we never have known more? What if they were under strong Prejudices of Education, and would not examine? What if they so revered the Opinions of other good and learned Men, or imagined these Points to be of so sacred a Nature that they durst not examine? or what if they fancied them so much above all human Comprehension, that it was their Duty not to examine? or so clear and certain, that there was no need to examine? or of such Weight and Importance, that it was impious to examine? Whatever their Foibles, or whatever their Fetters were, what is that to us? are we not bound to follow *Christ*, and to call him alone Master?

CERTAIN-

CERTAINLY Religion lay for many Hundreds of Years in a very deplorable State of Corruption; and it cannot be supposed, that it was restored, nay it is certain that it was not restored, to its Purity all at once. And should we not be very much afraid of retaining any part of the old Error and Superstition, which sunk the Christian Religion below even Paganism itself? Why should we subject our Consciences to the Bugbears, the Tales and Fables invented by *Priests* and *Monks* to the great Disparagement of the Gospel, and the Goodness of God, and that holy Faith and Joy which we ought to have in him? Is it not enough that our Consciences are subject to the Law of God, but we must load them with heavy Burthens of human Fictions? Certainly nothing is more for the Honour of Religion, nothing is more for your own Comfort, and chearful walking before God, than right Notions of his Dispensations: and therefore you should at least take in good Part any honest Endeavours to enlighten your Mind with just Apprehensions of them.

THUS I have, as well as I am able, gone through this useful and important Inquiry. May the Father of Lights illuminate our Understandings! I do not know that I have put a wrong Gloss upon any one Scripture (I am
S sure

sure I never designed to do so :) nor am I in any Doubt or Uncertainty, at present, in my own Thoughts, about any thing I have advanced. But that is no Proof I am every where right. I make no Pretensions to Infallibility.

THE WORD OF GOD is infallible; and that, not any thing I say or judge, is the common Rule of Faith. And observe, while we love the Truth, and honestly endeavour, as we are able, all our Days to understand what God hath revealed, whether the Knowledge we gain be more or less, we discharge the Duty of good Christians; nor can we be defective in that Faith which is necessary to a righteous and holy Life, and the Acceptance of God. The Word of God is the Rule of Faith: and if I have pointed out the Light shining therein, it is well; you ought to turn your Eyes to THAT LIGHT. But as for me, I am a weak and imperfect Man, and may have said several weak and imperfect Things; and therefore declare, If upon further Examination, or the kind Information of any Person of more Skill and Knowledge, I find myself in any Mistake, I shall be very glad to see, and ready to own it. And if any one undertaketh to give you a better Account of Things, hear him willingly; but give him no Dominion over your Understanding or Conscience. Judge for yourself; weigh coolly
and

and impartially what he advances. And if he convinceth you by Scripture Evidence, that I have taken any thing wrong, you are bound in Conscience and Duty to receive the Truth he discovers, and to reject my Error; but in the Spirit of Christian Love and Peace. And in so doing you will approve yourself to God, and please every honest Man; and among the rest,

Your Friend and Servant,

NORWICH,
Feb. 5. 1735.

JOHN TAYLOR.



READER,

IF in perusing this Book you have discovered any Truth you did not before understand, 'tis my earnest Request, you would rather lay it up in your Heart for your own use, than make it the Subject of Contention and Strife, the Fewel of party Zeal, or the Occasion of despising or censuring those who do not yet see it. And if you should enter into Discourse about it, let it be with all Moderation and Coolness on your Part; in the Spirit of Peace and mutual Forbearance. And therefore never converse upon this or any other Point with an *angry* Man; Passion and Heat blind the Judgment: nor with a *Bigot*, who is deter-

mined for a Scheme, and resolved to open his Eyes to no further Evidence. And whenever Anger and Bigotry appear in a Conversation already begun, break it off: For you cannot proceed to any good Purpose, and will be in Danger of catching a Spirit which is quite contrary to the Gospel. **HOLD THE TRUTH IN LOVE.** Fear God, and keep his Commandments; despise earthly Things; restrain and regulate your Passions; be constant in reading the Scriptures, fervent in Prayer to God, kind and compassionate to all Men, punctual and chearful in every Duty, humble in all your Deportment, upright and honest in all your Dealings, temperate and sober in all your Enjoyments, patient under all Afflictions, watchful against every Temptation, and zealous in every good Work: And then with Joy look for the Coming of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, for he will assuredly appear to your everlasting Salvation.

FINIS.



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attempted to be explained
in the foregoing Treatise.*

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O F
O R I G I N A L S I N, &c.

C O N T A I N I N G
Some R E M A R K S upon two B O O K S,
V I Z.

*The Vindication of the Scripture Doctrine of
Original Sin,*

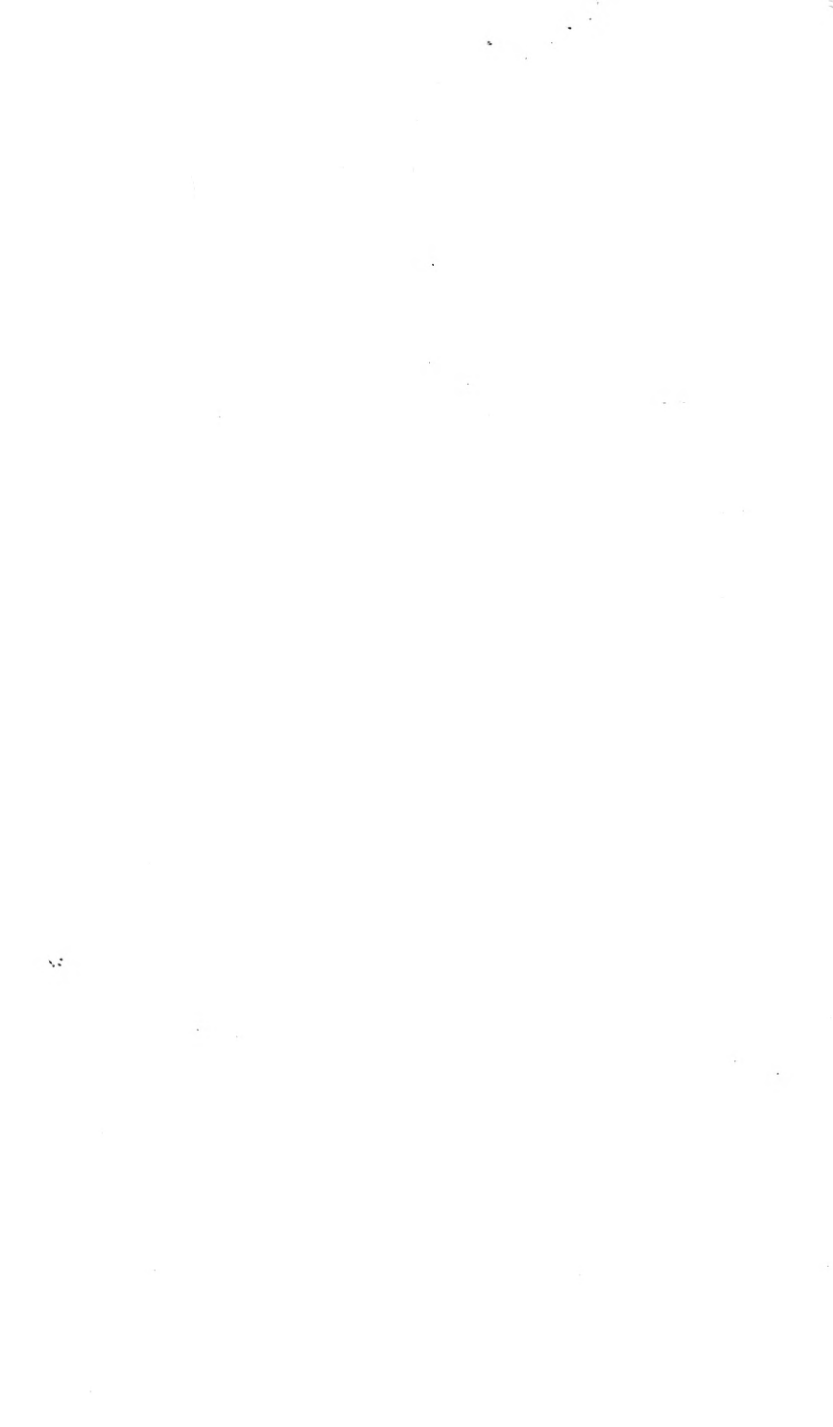
A N D
The Ruin and Recovery of Mankind.

In which R E M A R K S are examined some Sentiments relating to *imputed Guilt, the Calamities and Sinfulness of Mankind, Adam's being a federal Head, the Formation of our Nature, and the Doctrine of Original Righteousness*: Whence result several useful Particulars belonging to each.

By J O H N T A Y L O R.

ΑΛΗΘΕΥΟΝΤΕΣ ΔΕ ΕΝ ΑΓΑΠΗ.
Speaking the TRUTH in LOVE. Ephes. iv. 15.

L O N D O N,
Printed and Sold by MARY FENNER, at the
Turk's-Head in Gracechurch-street. M D C C X L I.





T H E

P R E F A C E.

R E A D E R,



P O N the *Vindicator's* recommending the Book, entitled, *The Ruin and Recovery of Mankind*, as giving the most *easy, rational and scriptural Account of the Doctrine of Original Sin*, I procured it, and upon a Perusal, found it contained the *Vindicator's* Principles, and chief Arguments, and was much better than his adapted to the Design I had formed before I saw it, which was to consider more fully than I had done in my *Scripture-Doctrine* some Principles relating to the common Scheme of Original Sin. For as *my own* Representation of those Principles might have been disputed, I could not do without a *Voucher*; and he seemed to me the best I could have: for he opens those Principles fully and without Reserve, and gives me all the Advantage I could wish to examine their Truth and Solidity, and to shew how difficult it is for the ablest Pen to write consistently upon them. This is the Use I have made of this Book; but with no Design to disparage, or malign the Author,

whoever he be. For the Candour and good Spirit diffused through the whole Book, and his generous Efforts to enlarge our Thoughts upon some Particulars, which I have no Occasion to take notice of, induce me to believe he is no Slave to a Scheme, and that he wrote his Book with as much Integrity as I am conscious I have written mine, and with the same good Intention to explain the Truth.

As for the *Vindicator*, I wish I had no Reason to say, he has done me much Wrong in several Respects. He bears too hard (*pag.* 42, &c.) upon my short Account of the glorious Work of Redemption. It is not the Subject of my Book ; I only touched upon it by the bye : tho' I believe what I have said of it will be found to be *strictly scriptural*. God forbid I should misrepresent or lessen the Redeemer, or any Part of the Grace of God in him. I truly desire to understand all that is revealed concerning the Redemption in *Christ Jesus*, which is the Joy of my Life, and the daily Subject of my Thanksgiving to God. However he should not have insinuated, *pag.* 43. as if I excluded *Atonement* out of the Scheme of Redemption, when in that Part of my Book, which he is censuring, (*pag.* 80.) I say expressly, *Christ's Worthiness makes ATONEMENT for Sin*. And I am persuaded that it has made Atonement for Sin
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in the highest and fullest, in the most proper, perfect and extensive Sense of Atonement.

HE frequently represents me as *attached to a favourite darling Scheme*; as *studying to evade the Evidence of Scripture*; as *put to wretched Shifts to keep the Scriptures from testifying against my Scheme, a Scheme which I am resolved at all Adventures to support, &c.* This is a heavy Charge: But how true or false must be referred to a future Decision. *The Judge stands at the Door.*

IN all his Book he very seldom faces my Argument, but plays at a Distance with some Criticism or other, upon which, (whether just or not,) it doth not depend. To give one Instance. Upon 1 Cor. xv. 21, 22. my Argument is, That we can't from this Place conclude, that any thing came upon us by *Adam's* Offence besides temporal Death. This he doth not in the least contradict; but amuses the Reader with an Attempt to prove, that the Apostle in those Verses is speaking not of the Resurrection of *all Men*, but of *the Saints only*, pag. 15—18. which were it true, as it is false, is nothing to the purpose; and yet he triumphs as if he had gained some great Victory, when he leaves me in full Possession of the Argument.

HE

HE names not so much as one Text besides the five I mention'd, where the one Offence is *certainly* and *plainly* refer'd to. Nor doth he pretend to find in those Texts any other Consequences of that Offence besides those which I have found, namely, temporal *Sorrow, Labour and Death*. He endeavours to shew from those Texts that *Adam's Sin* is *imputed* to us, and that we are *punished* for it: but carries that Imputation and Punishment no further than temporal Sorrow, Labour and Death. He don't so much as *affirm* that we can from *them* collect, that the Nature of all Mankind is morally corrupted by *Adam's Transgression*, or that all Men thereby are *justly made liable to the Torments of Hell for ever*. Indeed, (*pag. 27.*) he feebly points at a farther Judgment to Condemnation, *which*, as he saith, *came upon all the World*, besides that mention'd, *Gen. iii. 19.* namely in *Rom. iii. 19.*—*that all the World may become guilty before God*, or, subject to the Judgment of God. But we all know, that *Guiltiness*, or being *subject*, or obnoxious to *Judgment*, never did, nor will *come upon all Men to Condemnation*.—He deserts both the Persons and Cause he has undertaken to defend. He quite alters the *Assembly's Proposition*, *pag. 62—64.* a certain Proof he thought it not defensible; and *wholly* declines meddling with any other Text they have brought to prove, that for *Adam's Sin* we are justly liable to eternal

nal Torments in Hell. He allows the supposed Corruption of Nature derived from *Adam* may be overcome by our natural Power, and that it is our own Fault, if we do not resist and overcome it, *pag.* 63. He don't pretend to *assert an utter Incapacity in Man to do his Duty for want of natural Powers; but owns it is their Duty, and that they have natural Powers to do good; and that their actual Sins are chargeable on their own Choice,* *pag.* 64. That *it is the Sinner's own Fault, that he suffers himself to be drawn away into the Commission of actual Sins,* *pag.* 70. That *the Cause of our Sin is the Choice of our own Will; or, our Sin proceeds immediately from our own Choice.* And if all this be true, what becomes of the common Doctrine of *Original Sin?* which yet he strenuously endeavours to support: or wherein, as to the main Point, doth he differ from me whom yet he warmly opposes?

I SHOULD be glad to see all Debates relating to the Sense of Scripture managed on all Sides in a Christian-like Manner; and wish, while we are endeavouring to discover, or vindicate the Truth of Religious Principles, we may none of us lose the kind and amicable Spirit of the Gospel; or, resting in Speculative Knowledge, neglect Piety, or the Practice of the solid and obvious Duties of Religion.

ERRATA and ADDENDA:

A great Part of which the Author owns are not the PRINTER's but his own Mistakes; and desires the Reader either to correct 'em, or at least to mark the Places to which they belong, before he begins to read the Book, that he may not in reading overlook them.

P. Ag. 3. l. 21. *after* when it is forgiven, *add*, or not taxed with a Penalty. P. 8. l. 23. *a Period after* City. P. 9. l. 4. Grievance? P. 16. l. 28. *alledge*. P. 18. l. 20, 21. 2 Sam. xii. 14. --- P. 20. l. 29. 2 Chron. xxix. 5--10. --- P. 25. l. 5. *for use read* improve. *In the Note* l. 2. Psal. lxxviii. 33, 34, 35. --- l. 5. Jer. ii. 20. P. 29. l. 24, 25. Kindred. --- P. 33. l. 8. Innocents. P. 34. l. 11. *for important read* importunate. P. 46. l. 18. *because* we all know. P. 51. l. 13. *for* that either more or less than a Quarter of the World shall but be saved, *read* that scarce a Quarter of the World will be saved. P. 53. l. 2. Time. P. 54. l. 10. *after* amounts to nothing, *add*, Which will appear more abundantly if we take in the Case of the Angels, who in Numbers *finned*, and *kept not their first estate* (2 Pet. ii. 4. Jude vi.) tho' created with a Nature superior to Adam's. For this makes it undeniably evident, that sinning in the Degree of Adam's Guilt, or in that of the Angels, who are *referred in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the last day*, would not prove, that the Nature of Mankind is originally corrupt or destitute of the Image and Favour of God. --- l. 14. and 18. *for*, Adam was created, *read*, Adam and the Angels were created. P. 62. l. 21. Nor of this. P. 63. l. 3. *a Period after* Duty. --- l. 18, 19. Perfection. P. 65. l. 9. *a Period after* Powers. P. 67. l. 25. Insufficiency of our Power to do our Duty. P. 69. l. 22. or would make itself do more than it is able. --- l. 25. would make itself do more than it can. P. 73. l. 1. *a Comma after* thankful. P. 76. *in the running Title* Original. P. 85. l. 7. *after* corrupt and sinful, *add*, These three Particulars include all the Blessings, Privileges, Endowments, and Pre-eminence of Nature according to which Adam, in his Station, was among the rest of God's Works pronounced *very good*, Gen. i. 31. And from these three Particulars Divines deduce the Superiority of his Nature above ours. P. 87. l. 15. *for* and came *read* had come. P. 88. l. 6. *for* were *read* are. P. 94. *in the Note* l. 7. *a Comma after* Constitutions. P. 96. l. 18. *for* strikes *read* sticks. P. 99. l. 6. Plenipotentiaries. P. 100. l. 23. this last Part. P. 104. l. 16. Paragraph. P. 112. l. 16. *for* or any other Person's, *read* or in Adam's. P. 114. l. 21. was. P. 131. l. 22. *for into this Body read* into Being. P. 136. l. 20. *a Period after* sinful. P. 137. l. 14. *a Comma after* Adam. P. 144. l. 10. irresistible. --- l. 20. from a Nature corrupt in its Formation. P. 149. l. 25. *read* p. 174---184. [*in the Second Edition*, p. 176---186.] P. 150. l. 16, 17. Ephes. iv. 22. --- l. 19. *after* which he is considered, *add*, To explain this Point it may at present suffice to remark. P. 156. l. 24. 2 Chron. xxxii. 30. --- l. *last*. Jud. xiv. 3. P. 159. l. 2. *dele* --- iv. 1. --- l. 3. *a Comma after* 6. --- l. 4. *a Comma after* the latter 5. --- l. 5. *for* vi. 6. *read* 6, 6. --- l. 29. *after* Zech. viii. 10. *add* --- xi. 6. P. 161. l. 1. *for* Righteousness: *read* Rightness. --- l. 20, 21. *for* or *read* nor. P. 163. l. 8. *a Comma after* Exercise,



A
SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
SCRIPTURE-DOCTRINE
OF
ORIGINAL SIN, &c.

INTRODUCTION.



BELIEVING the Scriptures to be a Revelation from God, and that they alone contain the true and genuine Principles of the Christian Religion, it is my Resolution to make them the Study of my Life. What Doctrine they teach, I embrace, and will, to the best of my Ability, teach and communicate to others. What in them I find not, I will neither profess, nor teach, to gain any the greatest temporal Advantages. And from this my upright Purpose, through God's Assistance, no Man shall me persuade or deter; being convinced my *eternal Well-being* depends upon this Conduct. *If I CORRUPT the Temple or Church of God by false Doctrine, I*
B know

know *God* will CORRUPT or *destroy* me, 1 Cor. iii. 17. If I am faithful to my Trust as a Minister of the Gospel, whatever my present Lot may be, I am sure of receiving in a little Time the Crown of everlasting Life: Therefore it is my earnest Desire and highest Ambition to understand, live and preach *the Truth as it is in Jesus*. I bear Good-will to all Mankind, and shall ever study to cultivate Peace and Friendship with all my Fellow-Christians. I would not willingly disturb or displease any Person in the World; and why should any be displeased at me, while I sincerely follow God, and peaceably do my Duty? But if any one is disgusted, or reproaches, censures, or maligns me, I matter it not. May I but approve myself to God, be happy in the Testimony of a good Conscience, and in *any* Degree serviceable to the Cause of true Religion, I can disregard the Censures of Men, who shortly shall return to their Dust, and as well as myself, stand before the Judgment-Seat of *CHRIST*; where, I am sure, they shall not judge *me*, but be judged themselves.

IN this Mind; in Love and Peace with all Men, in a full Persuasion I am to answer in the great Day for what I now write, and in Dependence upon the *Father of Lights* to lead me into the Truth, I address myself to the Work I have undertaken.

S E C T.

S E C T. I.

Of imputed Guilt.

THE first Thing which offers is the *Vindicator's* Reflection, p. 6. I say, *Scrip. Doc.* p. 13. that the *real Guilt* of our first Parents Transgression *must be personal, and belong only to themselves.* Here he tells me, That I *should have known before I wrote on this Subject, that actual, personal Sin, and imputed Guilt, are quite two Things, which yet I perpetually confound, or make them to be the same, throughout my Book.* — But he will have no Reason to blame me, if he considers I was writing, not the *Calvinist-Scholastic* -, but the *Scripture-Doctrine* of *Original Sin.* Now in Scripture, after the strictest Examination, I could not find that *actual, personal Sin, and imputed Guilt* are two different Things, but one and the same Thing; saving only that *actual, personal Sin* is then *imputed*, when it is laid to the Charge of the Person who has committed it; and on the contrary, is *not imputed* when it is forgiven. For though in Scripture an Action is frequently said to be *imputed, reckoned, accounted* to a Person, it is no other than his own Act and Deed, which is *accounted, reckoned, or imputed* to him, either for Righteousness or

Condemnation. I have with a good deal of Care search'd the Sacred Writings on this Head, and can find no more Places in all the Bible where *imputing, accounting or reckoning* an ACTION to any Person is spoken of, but those that follow.

GEN. xv. 6. *And he believed in the Lord, and he, [the Lord,] counted it, [his believing in the Lord,] unto him for Righteousness.* So Gal. iii. 6. Jam. ii. 23. Lev. xvii. 3, 4. *What Man soever killeth an Ox, &c. and bringeth it not unto the Door of the Tabernacle, &c. Blood [the Blood he hath unlawfully spilt] shall be imputed unto that Man.* Num. xviii. 26, 27. *Ye [Levites] shall offer up an Heave-offering of it, the Tithe unto the Lord, even a tenth Part of the Tithe, and this your Heave-offering shall be reckoned unto you as tho' it were the Corn of the Threshing-floor, and as the Fulness of the Wine-press: That is, it should be as acceptable to God as the Tithes, which all the Tribes of Israel paid out of the Threshing-floor and Wine-press.* 1 Sam. xxii. 15. *Let not the King impute any thing [any disloyal Action] to his Servant, for thy Servant knew nothing of all this more or less; and therefore nothing can justly be imputed to me.* 2 Sam. xix. 19. *Shimei said unto the King, Let not my Lord impute Iniquity to me, neither remember that which thy Servant did perversely.* Psal. xxxii. 2. *Blessed is the Man*

to whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, i. e. his Transgression and Sin spoken of ver. 1. Psal. cvi. 31. And that, [his executing Judgment] was counted unto him [Phinehas] for righteousness. Prov. xxvii. 14. He that blesteth his Friend with a loud Voice, rising early in the Morning, it shall be counted a Curse to him. Rom. ii. 26. If the Uncircumcision keep the Righteousness of the Law, shall not his [Obedient] Uncircumcision be accounted to him for Circumcision. Rom. iv. 3. Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness—Ver. 4. Now to him that worketh is the * Reward not reckoned of Grace, but of Debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his Faith is counted for Righteousness—Ver. 6. Even as David also describeth the Blessedness of the Man unto whom God imputeth * Righteousness without Works, saying, Blessed are they whose Iniquities are forgiven, whose Sins are covered. Blessed is the Man to whom the Lord will not impute Sin. Ver. 9. — We say, That Faith was reckoned to Abraham for Righteousness—Ver. 11. — That he might be the Father of all them that believe, tho' they be not circumcised; that * Righteousness might be im-

B 3

puted

* Reward and Righteousness here have nearly the same Signification; Reward is oppos'd to Punishment, and Righteousness to Condemnation, 2 Cor. iii. 9. Therefore Reward and Righteousness are THINGS not ACTIONS. So Phil. 18. If he has wronged thee, or
oweth

puted to them also. Ver. 20 — 25. He stagger'd not at the Promise, — but was strong in Faith, giving glory to God. Being fully persuaded that what he had promised he was able also to perform; and therefore it [his Faith] was imputed to him for Righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it [Faith] was imputed to him; but for us also to whom it [our Faith] shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus from the dead. Rom. v. 13. For until the Law Sin was in the World; [Men committed various Sorts of Sin] but Sin is not imputed, [the Sins of Men were not taxed with Death,] when there is no Law; *μη οντος νομου*, when the Law was not in being, neither that given to Adam, which was annul'd; nor that given to Moses at Mount Sinai, which was not yet promulg'd. 1 Cor. xiii. 5. Love is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Greek, imputeth not evil; i. e. doth not set it to account in order to revenge it. 2 Cor. v. 19. God was in Christ reconciling the World unto himself, not imputing their Trespases unto them. 2 Tim. iv. 16. At my first Answer no Man stood with me, but all Men forsook me: I pray God that it [their forsaking of me] may not be laid to their charge. [*λογισθεν*]

THESE

oweth thee ought, put that on my Account—I will repay it. This relates to a pecuniary Matter. For the Apostle doth not take Onesimus's Wickedness or Villany upon himself; only he promises to make good any Damages he might have done his Master.

THESE are all the Places I can find in Scripture where the Imputation of Sin or Righteousness is spoken of. And no ACTION is said to be *imputed*, *reckoned* or *accounted* to any Person for *Righteousness* or *Condemnation*, but the proper ACT and Deed of that Person, We may add,

1 SAM. xi. 2. *Nabash answered [the Men of Jabesh-Gilead] on this Condition will I make a Covenant with you, that I may thrust out all your right Eyes, and lay it for a reproach on all Israel.* But they, and he too, judg'd it was right *all Israel* should first make this Reproach justly chargeable upon them by their own Cowardice, or Neglect of their Countrymen, the Men of *Jabesh*, Ver. 3.

INIQUITY and *Sin* are in Scripture said to be *laid upon*, and born by such as are not guilty of 'em, in various Senses, *Lev. xvi. 21, 22.* *Aaron put all the Iniquities and Sins of the Children of Israel upon the Scape goat, and the Goat did bear upon him all their Iniquities into a Land of Separation,* being let go in the Wilderness. The Goat was to suffer nothing. Here was no Imputation of Sin, no transferring to the Goat the Guilt or Condemnation, or Liableness to Punishment, Misery or Death, which the Sins of the *Israelites* deserved. The Goat was let

loose to go where he pleased, in a Land the properest for his Subsistence, in a Wilderness where he was to wander and range all his Days. Which was a figurative Way of signifying the total removal of Guilt, or Obligation to Punishment, from the penitent *Israelites*. It should not return, nor be remember'd any more. They were as free from it as the leprous Person from his Confinement, or Pollution, signify'd by letting a Bird fly into the Fields, *Lev. xiv. 7. As far as the East is from the West: so far hath he removed our Transgressions from us*, *Psal. ciii. 12.* — Again; *Isa. liii. 6. The Lord laid on our Blessed Redeemer the Iniquities of us all. And ver. 11. He shall bear their Iniquity, ver. 12. He bare the Sin of many.* So *Heb. ix. 28. 1 Pct. ii. 24.* But *Iniquity*, and *Sin* do also signify *Suffering*, *Affliction*, &c. and, where Sin is suppos'd in the Subject, *suffering for Sin* in a proper Sense, or *Punishment*, *Gen. xix. 15. — lest thou [Lot] be consumed in the Iniquity, suffering of the City, Gen. xx. 9. Thou hast brought — on my kingdom a great Sin, Calamity, Suffering. Ver. 4. Wilt thou slay also a righteous nation? Gen. xxxi. 39. I bare the Loss of it, Heb. I was the Sinner or Sufferer for it. 2 Kings vii. 9. — if we tarry till the Morning, some Mischief, [Heb. Iniquity] Suffering,] will come upon us. Job v. 6. Affliction [Heb. Iniquity] cometh not forth of the Dust. Jer. li. 6. Flee out of the midst of Babylon,*

and

and deliver every Man his Soul: be not cut off in her Iniquity, Sufferings, Destruction. Hab. i. 3. *Why dost thou shew me Iniquity, Affliction, and cause me to behold Grievance.* Therefore as Iniquity and Sin signify Suffering or Affliction, it is evident a Person may have Iniquity laid upon him, or may bear Sin, to whom Iniquity and Sin cannot be imputed, or upon whom they cannot be charged. And that this was the Case with respect to our Lord is evident: For when, *Isa. liii. 6. the Lord* is said to have laid on him the Iniquities of us all, that he bare our Iniquities, and Sin, the Spirit of Prophecy sufficiently explains itself by telling us in other Words, ver. 5. *He was wounded for our Transgressions, he was bruised for our Iniquities. He suffered for Sin, the just, to whom no Sin could be imputed, for the unjust. He who knew no Sin, and therefore to whom no Sin could be imputed, was made Sin, was placed in a State of Suffering and Affliction, and became obedient to Death, for us.* Thus *Ezekiel* (Chap. iv. 4, 5, 6.) lying first on his left Side three hundred and ninety Days, and then on his right Side forty Days, bore the Iniquity of the Houses of *Israel* and *Judah* which God is there said to lay upon him: Not that the Iniquity of *Israel* was imputed to, or charged upon him; but he bore their Iniquity by continuing, either really or in Vision, so many Days as they were to continue Years, in a State of Suffering, in order the more effectually

10 *Sins of Parents not imputed to Posterity.*

tually to predict their future Calamities. And our Lord was in a State of Suffering, it pleased the Lord to bruise him, and put him to Grief, in order to a much nobler End, the Expiation or Atonement of our Sins. But our Sins are never said to be imputed to *Christ*; nor could Sin be imputed to him who was holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from Sinners. For in Scripture no Sin is said to be imputed, or not imputed to any Person, but his own actual Sin.

ON the contrary, with regard to Parents and their Posterity, it is an express Rule in the Law given by God himself, *Deut. xxiv. 16. The Fathers shall not be put to death for the Children, neither shall the Children be put to death for their Fathers: every Man shall be put to death for his own Sin.* And the Spirit of Truth teaches, and fully and clearly assures us, throughout the whole eighteenth Chapter of *Ezekiel*, that God, however he may bring the Son under disciplinary Visitations, doth not impute the Guilt of the Father to the Son. And this in Confutation of the *Jews*, who had entertained a hard Opinion concerning the Divine Proceedings; which they express'd by this Proverb, *ver. 2. The Fathers have eaten four Grapes, and the Childrens Teeth are set an Edge.* To which the Lord God answers, *ver. 4. Behold, all Souls are mine; as the Soul of the Father, so*
also

also the Soul of the Son is mine : the Soul that sinneth it shall die. Ver. 5. If a Man be just and do that which is lawful and right, &c. ver. 9. — he shall surely live, saith the Lord GOD. Ver. 10. If he beget a Son that is a Robber, a Shedder of Blood, &c. ver. 13. he [the Robber, &c.] shall surely die, his Blood shall be upon him. Ver. 14. Now lo, if he [the Robber and Shedder of Blood] begetteth a Son that seeth all his Father's Sin that he hath done, and considers and doth not such like, &c. ver. 17. — he shall not die for the Iniquity of his Father, he shall surely live. Ver. 19. And yet say ye, why? doth not the Son [in fact] bear the Iniquity of the Father? To this the Lord GOD replies, When the Son hath done that which is lawful and right, and hath kept all my Statutes, and hath done them, he shall surely live. Ver. 20. The Soul that sinneth it shall die: the Son shall not bear the Iniquity of the Father, neither shall the Father bear the Iniquity of the Son; the Righteousness of the Righteous shall be upon him, and the Wickedness of the Wicked shall be upon him. Thus God proves that his Way, his Dealings with Men, was equal and just, (ver. 25, 29.) not by affirming he might justly impute the Sin of the Parent to the Child, and punish him for it; but by declaring that he would not do so, but would judge them, (ver. 30.) every one ACCORDING TO HIS WAYS.

AND with this the Nature of the Thing concurs. For *imputed Guilt*, as used by Divines with respect to *Original Sin*, is the Guilt of a Sin charged upon a Person who is not *actually* or *personally* guilty of it. Of the Sin he, the *Person*, is clear and innocent; he neither committed it, nor had any hand in encouraging, advising or approving it, but it might be committed some thousands of Years before he was born; and yet it is suppos'd to be imputed to him by the Judge, and charged upon him so far that he is on account thereof treated as a Sinner, involv'd in Sin and Guilt as soon as he is born, and obliged to suffer severe *Punishment* in this Life, according to R. R. * and according to the *Assembly of Divines*, the most grievous Torments in Soul and Body in Hell-fire for ever; not because he has done any thing worthy of Punishment, but because the Judge or Governour is pleased to appoint it to be so.

Con-

* By these two Letters I signify *The Ruin and Recovery of Mankind*, both Author and Book. And in Justice to this Author, it must be observ'd, that although he endeavours to maintain the common Doctrine of *Original Sin*, so far as relates to the Imputation of *Adam's Guilt*, the Miseries of this Life, and the moral Corruption of our Nature, yet he doth not espouse that Assertion, that *Adam's Sin and Fall* render'd either *Adam* himself or his Posterity justly liable to the most grievous Torments in Soul and Body without Intermission in Hell-fire for ever; but very judiciously, in my Mind, suggests, that the Death threatened to *Adam* was a Forfeiture of Existence, &c. p. 197.

Consequently, the Obligation to Punishment doth not result from TRUTH, EQUITY or JUSTICE; but from the mere WILL of the Governour, who by this Rule is at Liberty to suppose Men to be what *actually* and *really* they are not; and has a Right to bring them under Obligation to the most dreadful Punishment by mere arbitrary Will, when he knows they are *actually* and *personally* undeserving of any Punishment. And therefore I do not wonder, that the Scripture not only never affirms, but on the contrary expressly removes from the Divine Proceedings, the Imputation of Guilt in a Sense so remote from all Reason, Truth and Equity.

FURTHER, *Adam's Sin* is never in Scripture said to be *imputed* to his Posterity. This R. R. acknowledges, p. 403. l. 10. *The Scripture*, saith he, *does not, as I remember, any where in express Words assert, that the Sin of Adam is imputed to his Children, &c.* Indeed he tells us in the same Place, that he thinks the *Sense and true Meaning* of this Expression, *that Adam's Sin is imputed to his Children*, is sufficiently found in Scripture. But how can any Meaning of this Expression be found in Scripture, by any just and authentic Rule of Interpretation, when the Scripture always uses *imputing Sin* in a Sense directly inconsistent with it? For the Scripture never speaks of *imputing* any Act of Righteousness or Sin

to

to any Person, but what is the Act of that Person to whom it is imputed either for *Righteousness* or *Condemnation*; therefore we can fix *no Meaning* to this Expression, *Adam's Sin is imputed to his Children*, which the Scripture will justify. For which Reason, I don't think he has explain'd any Doctrine of Scripture in the *Essay* he has wrote to explain the *Doctrine of imputed Sin and Righteousness*; because he has not confin'd himself to the Scripture Account, but has suppos'd both Sin and Righteousness to be imputed, not only where the Scripture never saith they are imputed, but also in a Sense which the Scripture discountenances. But I shall pursue this Point no further; because I am in doubt whether it be *R. R's* Meaning, that he is *fully* satisfy'd his Sense of this Expression, *That Adam's Sin is imputed to his Children*, is sufficiently found in any Part of Scripture: Otherwise surely he would not have said, (p. 88. l. 1.) *I must confess I am not fond of such a Scheme or Hypothesis of deriving some Sort of Guilt, (by Imputation, see p. 85. l. 6.) from a Surety or Representative, tho' I know it has been embrac'd by a considerable Party of Christians ancient and modern.* No; I would gladly renounce it, *because of some great Difficulties attending it, if I could find any other Way to relieve the much greater Difficulties, and harder Imputations upon the Conduct of Providence, which will attend this Enquiry, if we follow*

follow any other Track of Sentiment. — This doth not seem to be the Language of one persuaded that the Imputation of *Adam's Sin* to his Posterity is a Doctrine of Scripture, or *sufficiently* found there. But to proceed,

To support the common Notion of *imputed Guilt*, the *Vindicator* brings several *Cases* or *Facts* wherein, he says, *God has actually PUNISHED the Crimes of Parents upon their Children and Posterity*, p. 7. — 13. and he adds a Confirmation from human Transactions. To which I answer, 'tis true, many Instances may be brought out of all Parts of Life where Children do, and must of Course SUFFER for the Misconduct of their Parents or Ancestors. When the Father by his Virtue gets an Estate or Honour, he leaves it to his Posterity, and they enjoy or perhaps abuse it, till one or other of them forfeits or squanders it away; he cannot convey what he has not, and therefore the following Posterity of course are reduc'd, not to a State of PUNISHMENT, but to the same naked Condition in which the Family was before the Estate or Honour was got. Temporal Estates and Honours are Things alienable from Posterity by Law, and the former even by the Will and Deed of the present Possessor: But Innocence can be *alienated* by no Law, Power, Authority or Person whatsoever, except the Person to whom it belongs. He may change his
Inno-

Innocence into Guilt. But no other Being whatsoever can do it. Nor Man, nor God, by any Constitution whatever, can possibly make a Thing to be, what it is not; can make Innocence to be No-Innocence, or justly account an innocent Person, continuing such, not innocent. Consequently no just Constitution can PUNISH the Innocent, because PUNISHING implies that the Subject is *not innocent*. PUNISHING the Innocent is acting directly against the eternal and immutable Nature of Things. Nor doth this Author, or R. R. in his *Essay*, give us one Instance of innocent Posterity PUNISHED for the Faults of Ancestors by the Laws or Constitutions of any Nations upon Earth. Or, if any such Law were found, it must be judged false and unjust. Both these Gentlemen slip in the Word PUNISH, without attending to its true Force, and confound it with SUFFERING; as if to *suffer* and to be *punish'd* were the same Thing.

NOR in the Scripture-Instances they have produced, is it said, that the Crimes of Parents were PUNISHED upon Children, as they have unwarily affirmed; R. R. p. 121. *Vind.* p. 7, &c. The Facts they alledged in Regard to *Ham's* and *Gebazi's* Posterity, and the Children of *Dathan* and *Abiram* * suffering through

* R. R. and the *Vindicator* add the Children of *Korah* and *Achan*. But the Children of *Korah* died not,
Numb.

through the Sins of their Parents are allowed. But the *Fact* is one Thing, and the *Reason* of the Fact is another. The *Fact* may be true, but the *Reason* assigned for it false. It is Fact that the Children *suffered*, but it is false that the Guilt of Parents was *imputed* to them, or that they were PUNISHED for their Crimes. Because this is contrary to express Scripture, and the Truth and Reason of Things. On the other hand, Children in such Instances are evidently regarded as the *Property* and *Possessions*, the most dear and valuable ENJOYMENTS of Parents, and come under the same general Consideration with *Cattle, Land, Fruits of the Earth, &c.* consequently in the Instances alledged, the Parents only were *punished* by the Sufferings of the Children; which Sufferings had not respect to the Sin of Posterity, unless to prevent it, but only to the Sin of the Parents, how much or how long soever Posterity might suffer. This appears from several Passages in Scripture. *Lev. xxvi. 18, 21, 22, 28, 29.—I will punish YOU seven times more for YOUR Sins.—Your Land shall not yield her Increase,—and if ye walk contrary unto me, I will bring seven times more Plagues upon YOU, according to YOUR Sins. I will also send wild Beasts among*

Numb. xxvi. 11. And it is a Question whether the Children of *Achan* were stoned with him: But if they were, they might be privy to the Father's Crime; for the accursed Thing was hid in his Tent, where his Family lived, *Josh. vii. 22.* Vid. *Patrick's Comment.*

you, which shall ROB you of your Children, and destroy your Cattle. Here both Children and Cattle are considered, not as Criminals, not as involved in Sin and Guilt, but as Possessions and Enjoyments. And tho' the Children and Cattle would suffer, yet only the Parents and Owners would be punished. Ver. 28, 29.— I will chastise YOU seven times for YOUR Sins; and ye shall eat the Flesh of your Sons, and the Flesh of your Daughters shall ye eat. Numb. xiv. 32, 33. As for you, who have murmured against me, your Carcasses they shall fall in this Wilderness; and your Children shall wander in the Wilderness forty Years, and bear YOUR Whoredoms. Deut. xxviii. 15, 18, 41. If thou wilt not hearken unto the Voice of the Lord thy God, — cursed shall be the Fruit of thy Body, and the Fruit of thy Land — Thou shalt beget Sons and Daughters, but thou shalt not ENJOY them: for they shall go into Captivity. 2 Sam. xvi. 14. The Child also which is born unto thee, David, who hast done wickedly, shall die. Isai. xiii. 11, 16. And I will PUNISH the World for their Evil, and the Wicked for THEIR Iniquity, &c. Their Children also shall be dashed to pieces before their Eyes. Jer. xi. 22. — I will PUNISH THEM, the Men of Anathoth; the young Men shall die by the Sword, their Sons and their Daughters shall die by Famine.— It is thus that God visits the Iniquities of the Fathers upon the Children. Jer. xxiii. 34.— xxix. 32.— I will punish Shemaiah — and his Seed.

Seed. In the *Hebrew* it is, *I will visit upon Shemaiah,—and upon his Seed.* To visit doth not in itself signify to *punish*, but is of a general Signification, and apply'd to *Good* as well as *Evil*, *Exod.* iii. 16. *Psal.* cvi. 4. *Job* xxxv. 15. *Prov.* xix. 23. A Person may indeed be *punished* who is *visited*, because he is the proper Criminal; but those who are *visited* may not be *punished*, because they do not suffer on Account of their own Sin, but only by way of Dispensation and wise Appointment. Therefore the Visitation of *Shemaiah*, the Parent, was of one Kind, and the Visitation of *his Seed* of another. For the Scripture directs us to conceive, not that the Child is *punished*, but that the Sin of the Parent! is *punished* in the Sufferings of the Child. In short, it is evident in all those Cases Children are considered not as *Criminals*, involved in Guilt, but as *Enjoyments*. And as God has a Right to punish us in any of our Enjoyments, so no Doubt this particular Instance of punishing Parents in their Children, their dearest Comforts and Enjoyments, is wisely appointed for good Purposes. The sovereign Lord, who daily takes away the Lives of Infants, or of others, in what Way and whensoever he sees best, and who often suffers the Righteous to fall with the Wicked in publick Judgments, may cut off Children with rebellious Parents, to strike a deeper Terror into those that survive, and to caution them more effectually

against the like Offences. The Governour of the World, who has a Right to settle every Man's outward Condition as he pleases, may in much Goodness threaten and inflict worse TEMPORAL Circumstances, Poverty, Disease, or a less honourable Situation upon the Posterity of vicious Parents, as the most powerful Motive to deter such Parents from Impiety and Wickedness; which by such a Dispensation they are bound to abhor, as they value not only their own, but also the Prosperity of those who are dearest to them, and for whose Welfare they are above all Things solicitous. And this Constitution may likewise turn out very much to the moral Advantage of Posterity themselves; especially if God foresees such Sins are likely to continue and spread in the Family. For as thus the Memory of the Sin will be most effectually preserved among them, so it must be a much more powerful Motive against Sin, and give them a deeper Hatred of it, when they know any TEMPORAL Evils are come upon them by the ill Conduct of a Progenitor. And therefore the *Israelites* are frequently directed to recollect, and in their Captivity and Affliction do recollect and confess the Sins of their Fathers. See 2 *Kings* xxii. 11, 13. 2 *Chron.* xxiv. 5—10. *Neb.* ix. 2, 34 to the End. *Psal.* xcv. 8, 9. *Jer.* xiv. 20.—xliv. 9. *Lam.* v. 7, 8, &c. 20, 21. *Zech.* i. 2, 3. — I say, when they know any TEMPORAL Evils
are

are come upon them; for all the alledged Instances relate only to such Evils, and consequently do not prove that the Natures of Children are *corrupted* by the Sins of Parents, which is the grand Point asserted by R. R. and the *Vindicator*; or that Children thereby are made *liable* in the World to come to any Punishment, much less to the most grievous Torments in Soul and Body in Hell-fire for ever; as the *Assembly of Divines* teach.

ON the other Hand; the Virtue of an Ancestor may convey great Advantages to Posterity. *Gen. xxii. 16, &c.* Because *Abraham* believed in God, and obeyed his Voice, therefore some of his Seed were singled out to be the peculiar People of God. *Numb. xxv. 11.* Because *Phinebas* was zealous for his God, God gave him and his Seed after him the Covenant of an everlasting Priesthood. In both these Cases, R. R. pag. 394, 395. slips in the Word REWARD, as if *Abraham's* Obedience and *Phinebas's* Zeal were imputed to their Posterity, and they received the Reward of their Ancestor's Virtue as well as their Ancestors themselves. But the Imputation was to *Abraham* and *Phinebas* alone; see *Gen. xv. 6. Psal. cvi. 31.* nor could their Posterity be rewarded for Obedience which was not their own. The Promise in both Cases was not the Reward of their Posterity's Virtue, but only of the Virtue of the worthy Patriarch and Priest, how

much, or how long soever their Posterity shared in the Advantages of the Promise. And this also is a kind and wise Scheme for preserving Virtue and Obedience in the World. For future Generations tasting the happy Fruits produced by the right Behaviour of Ancestors, must have the most excellent Examples before their Eyes, enforced by very ingaging Motives, Gratitude for Benefits already received, and the Assurance of the Divine Blessing upon the Faithful and Upright. Thus the Kindness of God our FATHER every way consults our best Interests, and all his Dispensations are calculated to make us good and happy. For this End our Lord's Obedience was rewarded with the most eminent Blessings bestow'd upon the Church, *Phil. ii. 8, 9. Ephes. i. 22. Heb. v. 8, 9.* And thus, upon the whole, it appears, the Distinction between *actual, personal Sin*, and *imputed Guilt*, is without any Ground in Scripture or the Reason of Things.

S E C T. II.

Of the Nature and Design of our Afflictions and Mortality.

BUT we must dwell a little longer upon the Case of Suffering. As we are now in a State of Probation, where we are to be tried

tried and purified in order to future and everlasting Happiness, and where we are liable to be seduced by bodily Appetite and the Things of Sense and Time, to disregard the Laws of Reason and Truth, and to neglect our spiritual and eternal Concernment; I say, as we are in such a State, God our FATHER, may in much Wisdom and Goodness mix any Degree of natural Evil with our Condition, and appoint a Variety of *Sufferings*, and upon various Occasions, to correct our inordinate Passions, our undue Attachment to Things of Time and Sense, and to curb or imbitter Vice, to dispose our Minds to sober Reflections, and to give Opportunity of exercising Kindness and Compassion in relieving each other's Distresses. Who can doubt but this is a Scheme true and rational, and altogether worthy of the *Father of our Spirits*? But the *Vindicator*, (pag. 13. lin. 8.) calls it a *quaint Conceit*, viz. *that the Sufferings, Afflictions, and Mortality which came upon Adam, and which come upon us, for his Sins, are not inflicted under the Notion of a Curse, but are given as Benefits to Mankind. So that* (pag. 15. lin. 5.) *instead of being punished for the Sin of our first Parents, we are graciously rewarded and blessed for it. This is turning the Tables to purpose.* And yet he himself, in the very next Sentence, turns them just as I have done: For he owns *the original Curse is turned into a Blessing to God's peculiar People*; only he

thinks I shall find it hard to shew how they are Benefits to Men in general. But it is but supposing, with Scripture, that God is good to ALL, and his tender Mercies over all his Works, which I hope with this Writer is no such hard Supposition, and the Difficulty vanishes. — Again, pag. 37. lin. 8. suffering of Benefits is not very common Language: [it is his own Language, not mine] But this Writer deals much in peculiar Acceptations of common Words and Phrases. All Words were coin'd by somebody; and why may not he have the Liberty of coining? &c. Well then, by suffering we are now to understand receiving Benefits; and by our suffering on Account of Adam's Sin, our being graciously rewarded for it, even with the Benefit of Death. — I wish this Gentleman, for his own Sake, would soberly consider, that while he is making himself merry, and endeavouring to render me ridiculous, he may possibly be exercising his Railery upon a Divine Constitution, and bantering the Scriptures of Truth, which do expressly represent Afflictions, Calamities, and Death itself, as a Means of improving in Virtue, not only to God's peculiar People, but to others who are no better for them, and even to all Mankind †. And as we are sure they come from God, they must

† This is so obvious, that Quotations are needless. However if any demand Proofs, let them peruse the following; *Lev.* xxvi. 14, &c. *I Kings* viii. 35. *2 Chron.*

must be his Appointment ; and as there never was a *Time* or *Place* since they were inflicted upon Mankind, wherein they were not proper to obtain this End, and Men were not obliged to use them for this Purpose, we may conclude, they were from the Time when the Dispensation of Grace was first erected, appointed for this Purpose by God, who is our FATHER, the Fountain of all Good, and who *doth not afflict willingly, nor grieve the Children of Men*: That is, who doth not take Pleasure in the Miseries of his Creatures, but designs all the Grievs he inflicts for their Benefit. *Lam. iii. 33.*

I ADD further, as a Proof that *natural Evil* has a Tendency to promote the *moral good*, that when the clearest Discovery of Divine GRACE and LOVE was first published, an extraordinary Power was exercised either immediately by our LORD himself, or by his Apostles from him, of inflicting bodily Distempers, and in some Cases Death itself, to reclaim Offenders, to deter from Wickedness, and to promote the eternal Salvation of Men. Thus the Apostle *Paul* threatens to *deliver* the incestuous Person *to Satan, for the Destruction*

2 *Chron.* xxviii. 22. — xxxiii. 12. *Job* v. 17. *Psal.* xxxix. 4, 5, 6, 7, 11. — xlix. 6—15. — lxxxviii. 33, 34, 35. — xc. 10, 11, 12. — xciv. 10. — cvii. 17, 19, 21. — cxix. 67, 71. *Prov.* iii. 11, 12. *Eccles.* vii. 2, 3, 4. *Isa.* i. 5. — xxvi. 9, 16. *Jer.* ii. 20. — v. 3. *Hos.* v. 15. *Rev.* xvi. 10, 11.

struction of the Flesh, that the Spirit might be saved in the Day of the Lord Jesus, 1 Cor. v. 5. And many of the Corinthians, for their disorderly Behaviour, were weak and sickly, and many slept, or were dead; and the Apostle tells them they were so judged, and chastened of the Lord, that they might not be condemned with the World, 1 Cor. xi. 30, 32. Hymeneus and Alexander he delivered to Satan, that they might learn not to blaspheme.

LASTLY, the signal Judgments of God upon notorious Offenders in the earlier Ages of the World were intended as Warnings to deter all succeeding Generations from the like Iniquity. 1 Cor. x. 8. *Let us not commit Fornication as some of them committed, and fell in one Day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted and were destroy'd of Serpents. Neither murmur ye as some of them also murmured and were destroyed of the Destroyer. Now all these Things happened unto them for Ensamples: and they are written for our Admonition, upon whom the Ends of the World are come. 2 Pet. ii. 5, 6.—bringing in the Flood upon the World of the ungodly; and turning the Cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into Ashes, condemning them with an Overthrow, making them an Example unto those that after should live ungodly. Jude 7. Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, in like Manner, giving themselves over to Fornication,*
— are

— *are set forth for an Example, suffering the Vengeance of eternal Fire.* So that even those most dreadful Instances of Divine Vengeance, which might in effect be the eternal Perdition of the Sufferers, were design'd to be lasting Benefits to Mankind.

THESE Things being duly attended to, and remembering withal that we do not here consider Death or Suffering in *themselves*, as they bereave us of Life or Enjoyment, for so they are natural *Evils*; nor as they stand in the Threatening of the *Law*, but as alter'd and rectify'd by *Grace*; nor with respect to those on whom they are inflicted as final and everlasting Punishments; nor as the Superstitious and Enthusiastic sometimes unwarrantably bring 'em upon themselves; but as they are *now* appointed and inflicted by God: I say, duly attending to those Things, it appears from Scripture, that Sufferings, Afflictions and Death may be considered as Tokens of God's Goodness, and as Benefits of the highest Nature to Mankind, if they are wise to make a right Improvement of them. And though brought upon us by the Sins of others, we should nevertheless consider them as coming from God; and though they are expressive of God's Wrath and Displeasure against Sin, yet being designed to correct and reform it, they are the Effect of his fatherly Care. And we should be thankful to the

FATHER of Mercies, and extol and honour the *King of Heaven*, all whose Ways are TRUTH, who brings *Good* out of *Evil*, whose Grace has wonderfully abounded in all Wisdom towards a sinful World, and who kindly provides for our spiritual and eternal Advantage in all his Dispensations, however they might be occasioned.

S E C T. III.

R. R's *Argument taken from the Calamities and Sinfulness of Mankind considered.*

NEITHER yet have we done with the Calamities of Life. R. R. hath made a great Argument of them, very well worth our Attention; and invites us to descend to Particulars, in a very large and moving Description of “*the rude and horrid Form of our Earth, the dreadful Magazines of Ruin and Destruction lodged in it, the horrible Accidents and mortal Devastations to which we are exposed; the poisonous Plants which endanger Life, and the cumbersome Weeds which create Vexation and Toil. The fierce and venomous Creatures whereby we are exposed to miserable Wounds, Anguish and Death. The Insects, Hornets, Muscatoes and Flies which infest and vex the Nations on all Sides of the Globe.* The
Sor=

*Sorrows of Child-birth. The slavish and painful Toils which Millions of human Creatures sustain to support a wretched Life. The Ignorance, Lewdness, Wickedness, Impiety, Profaneness, Superstition and Idolatry, the Fraud, Oppression, Cruelty, Pride, Wrath, Tyranny, Malice and Revenge, the Lust and Intemperance which abound in the World. The young Ferments of Spite and Envy, of native Malice and Rage, found in the little Hearts of Infants. The Hindrances to Virtue from the Vanity of the Mind, sensual Appetites and Passions. Our Want of a ready and practical Power to perform the Law of our Maker; our Miseries and Mortality from torturing Distempers, Wars, stormy Winds and Seas, Pestilence, Famine, Earthquakes, Eruptions of Vulcanos, Cannibals; the Accidents which injure the Health, Ease or Limbs of Mankind, or bereave them of Life; the Plots which Men contrive to defraud, circumvent and hurt their Neighbours; the Loss of our dearest Comforts; the teizing Vexation, and cutting Disappointments which arise from the Falshood of Friends, and Cruelty of Kindred; the inward Anguish which springs from our unruly Passions; the Anguish, Pain and calamitous Accidents to which Infants are exposed; the Scenes of Iniquity, Folly and Wretchedness among the better Sort of Men, as well as the worst; the poor, low, sorry Pleasures the Bulk of Mankind pursue; and their Thoughtlessness with Regard to a future World. From the whole Survey, R. R. is lead to look upon
this*

this World no otherwise than as a huge and magnificent Structure in Ruins, turned into a Prison and a Lazar-House or Hospital, wherein lie Millions of Criminals and Rebels against their Creator under Condemnation to Misery and Death." — This Description of human Misery reaches from *p.* 10. to *p.* 79. and he has in Effect repeated it in his Essay, *p.* 325—385.

FROM the Calamities and Sinfulness of the World, R. R. argues, That *Mankind is now not an innocent but a degenerate Creature, out of Favour with God, under his heavy Displeasure, wretchedly forsaken of him, antecedently to any Sin they have committed in their own Persons; and that the human Nature is corrupt and sinful, even from the Beginning of Life, and as soon as born.* P. 56. l. 32.-57. 5, &c. 329. -16. -338. 16.-374. 4, &c. Here I desire it may be observed, that the Degeneracy of Mankind is granted, as a Point never deny'd or doubted by any that I know of; and it is also granted, that several of Mankind have been under God's Displeasure for their own personal Wickedness, and that upon this Account he has inflicted various Judgments upon them: These Things are not the Points in Debate. But the Subject of our present Enquiry is threefold. 1. Whether Mankind be out of Favour with God, under his Curse and Displeasure, and wretchedly forsaken of him, *antecedently* to any Sin committed

mitted in their own Persons. 2. Whether the Human Nature be corrupt and sinful from the Beginning of Life, and as soon as born. 3. And whether these Propositions can be prov'd from the *Calamities* and *Sinfulness* which now appear, or have at any Time appeared in the World. — These are the Points R. R. has endeavoured to establish. Let us see what Evidence he has produc'd to support them.

IN his Descriptions I think he has strained Facts quite too far ; and in his Inferences from them has laid rather too great a Stress upon Supposition and Imagination. P. 14. l. 24. *Can we suppose that the blessed God would place his innocent Creatures in such a dangerous Habitation? &c.* P. 17. l. 21. *Can we suppose that amongst the Roots, the Herbs and the Trees which are good for Food, the great God would have suffered Mischief, Malady and deadly Poison to spring up here and there? &c.* P. 19. l. 13. *Would there have been any such Creatures in our World as Bears and Tygers? &c.* P. 24. 4. *Can we ever imagine the great and good God would have appointed intellectual Animals to be propagated in such a Way as would necessarily give such exquisite Pain and Anguish to the Mothers who produce them, if they had been all accounted in his Eyes a Race of holy and sinless Beings? And so he goes on quite through the Argument. But I doubt not a closer*
I
Thought

Thought will convince this Author that our *Suppositions* and *Imaginations* are not a just Standard by which to measure the Divine Dispensations? We see Things of this Nature best at a Distance, or as advanc'd by another Hand. And I wish R. R. would be pleas'd to observe what Effect my Discourse would have upon him, should I attempt to persuade him that Man is now a degenerate, discarded Creature, by the following Argumentation. “ Would innocent Creatures have
 “ been thrust into the World in such con-
 “ temptible Circumstances, dumb and help-
 “ less? Would young Angels have enter'd
 “ upon Life in such a low and groveling
 “ Degree of Existence, doom'd to grow up
 “ to Maturity and the Use of Reason so
 “ slowly, and to gain Knowledge and Learn-
 “ ing with so great Fatigue of Study and
 “ Application? Rather would they not,
 “ like Man in Innocence, under the Smiles
 “ of his Creator's Blessing, have made their
 “ first Appearance in the Vigour of Reason,
 “ and all the Glories of an intellectual Na-
 “ ture? Can we imagine a World of rational
 “ Creatures in full Favour with their Maker
 “ would have been subjected to the wretched
 “ Toil of walking upon the rough and miry
 “ Surface of the Earth, or of relieving their
 “ feeble and exhausted Limbs with the sorry
 “ Aid of brutal Strength and Speed, and not
 “ have been supply'd, like their celestial
 “ Kindred

“ Kindred, with a swift and painless loco-
“ motive Power, that with Ease and Plea-
“ sure they might have visited not only any
“ the remotest Parts of our Globe, but have
“ glided thro’ the yielding Ether, and have
“ enjoy’d Converse with their Fellow-minds
“ in the neighbouring Spheres? Can we
“ suppose Innocence would have been
“ doom’d to the wretched Drudgery of
“ building Bridges to pass Rivers, or Ships to
“ plough the dangerous Ocean, or Houses
“ for their Habitation? At least, would not
“ all Materials, Stones, Trees, Iron, &c.
“ have grown into their proper Forms, with-
“ out obliging the Favourites of Heaven to
“ the vile Servitude of hewing, sawing
“ and working them into a Fitness for their
“ several Uses? View the Millions of Mor-
“ tals who spend all their Days from the
“ early Morn till the Shades of Night, in
“ heaving, rubbing, or beating a Piece of
“ dull Matter, the Fragment of a Rock, the
“ rough Limb of an Oak, or a massy Bar of
“ Iron, and say, is this fit Employ for In-
“ telligences? Are the Nerves of holy Inno-
“ cents to be strain’d in such abject Slavery?
“ Is not Man evidently under some universal
“ Degeneracy, and wretchedly abandoned by
“ his Maker? Survey the Globe, see one
“ half of it always covered with the cold
“ and dismal Veil of Night, and all the In-
“ habitants under a Suspence of Thought
D “ and

“ and Action, having their Powers lock’d
 “ up by sleep, the nearest Image of Death;
 “ and can we think near half the Duration
 “ of Creatures, innocent and holy, would
 “ thus have been wasted in slothful, unactive
 “ Slumbers? Would a Race of Beings, in
 “ Favour with their Maker, have been tied
 “ to the mean Way of Subsistence by gorg-
 “ ing themselves with Lumps of gross Mat-
 “ ter, mingled Earth and Water, and con-
 “ strain’d to answer the perpetual, important
 “ Demands of an absurd Appetite, in the dai-
 “ ly, nauseous Rounds of Ingestion, and E-
 “ gestion? Let Brutes claim the sensual Life
 “ for their Peculiar, and glut their Bodies
 “ with Earth, to which they belong; but let
 “ Man subsist in a Manner suitable to his
 “ Distinction, and near Relation to the an-
 “ gelic World? And surely so he would,
 “ were he not in a degraded State, and under
 “ the Marks of his Creator’s Displeasure.”

— I dare say, such an Argument urg’d upon
 R. R. though set off with all the Decorations
 it is capable of receiving, would hardly gain
 his Assent. For thus any Imperfection or
 Disadvantage, in Comparison with Beings of
 a superior Rank, how congruous soever to our
 present State, might be work’d into a Mark
 of God’s Displeasure.

AGAIN; he doth not consider this World
 as a State of Trial, but as if it ought to have
 been

been in its proper State a Seat of Happiness and Enjoyment, an Habitation made for the Residence of holy sinless Creatures, like angelic Beings. P. 47. 1. *Are these such Scenes of Innocence and Peace as Mankind were made for?* P. 51. 20. *Can this be a State of Happiness, where we meet with, &c?* P. 344. 1. *Can this be a desirable State for any wise or angelic Being, who knows what Happiness is, to be join'd to such a Body as ours?* and in several other Places. — But this World was built for an Habitation of Creatures upon Trial. For Adam was immediately put upon Trial, and expos'd to Temptation. Now a State of Trial in its own Nature implies, that Creatures may lose their Innocence; that it is not a settled State of Enjoyment, but preparatory to such a State; and that several Kinds and Degrees of natural Evil may very properly be mix'd with such a State for exercising and proving our Virtue. Consequently, this World could not be built absolutely for a Seat of Innocence and Happiness. R. R. in answering an Objection taken from our being in a State of Trial, distinguishes *between innocent Creatures in a State of Probation, and sinful degenerate Creatures in the same State*, p. 22. 13. Well, be it allow'd that we are of the latter Sort; our Trial then must be, whether we will return unto God and Duty, or whether we will continue degenerate. And surely this View of our Circumstances will

give great Light to the present Constitution of Things. He therefore that only considers our being upon Trial as an Objection against his Scheme, but doth not take it into his Representation of the State of the World, must give us a very imperfect Account of it.

NEITHER doth he take a future State into his Representation. He sometimes mentions a future State ; but never takes it into his Account of Things, to vindicate the Justice, Wisdom and Goodness of God in the present Constitution of Affairs, but only to aggravate the Wickedness of Man in having no Regard to the future World. P. 69. l. 22, &c. And yet he was sensible a future World would set our present Circumstances in a quite different Light. P. 342. 6. *If a Man were placed in some upper Region, and had the Wisdom of an Angel, — and could take a Survey of human Life in its best Circumstances, — without the Hopes of a better Life afterwards, he would be very loth to accept of it ; nor indeed would it be worth his Acceptance.* And p. 346. 10. *Upon a compleat Survey of all these Hardships, Labour, Sicknefs and Death, I hardly think there is one Spirit in Heaven — that would accept of this Life in its common Circumstances — if his Existence is to terminate at Death, and he had no Respect or Reference to a Life to come.* P. 368. 10. *Nor can I see how a Creature can rationally bless God for*
this

this Life consider'd in itself, and abstracted from a future State. R. R. is aware a future State would make such an Alteration in this present Life, as that even an Angel might accept of it in its *common Circumstances*. He therefore that pretends to adjust the Constitution of the present World without taking in its Relation to the future, cannot give us a fair Account of Things.

NOR doth he take into his Argument the GOODNESS and MERCY of God, celebrated in Scripture as exercised in the most eminent, surprizing and extensive Degree towards the Children of Men. *Exod. xxxiv. 6, 7. The Lord, the Lord God merciful and gracious, long-suffering, abundant in Goodness and Truth, keeping Mercy for thousands, forgiving Iniquity, Transgression and Sin. Psal. xxxiii. 5. The Earth is full of the Goodness of the Lord. He is good and doth Good. Psal. cxvii. 1, 2. O praise the Lord, all ye Nations; praise him, all ye People; for his merciful Kindness is great towards us. The Lord is long-suffering to us ward, not willing that any should perish. Psal. cxlv. 8, 9. The Lord is gracious and full of Compassion; slow to Anger and of great Mercy. The Lord is good to all, and his tender Mercies over all his Works. He is the Saviour of all Men. God is Love. He is the FATHER of us all. O that Men would praise the Lord for his Goodness, &c. &c.* But R. R. represents

God as having forsaken *Adam* upon his first Transgression, *p.* 105. 26. as having withdrawn his Love and Favour from all Mankind; as scattering his Curses round the Globe, *p.* 27. 18. as having spread a wide Curse even over our Birth, *p.* 25. 2. as frowning upon us with great Displeasure. — But that Representation of any of God's general Constitutions and Dispensations among Men, which excludes his Mercy and Goodness, can neither be just nor true.

HE supposes our Sufferings, Calamities and Mortality to be mere *Punishments*, mere *Tokens of God's Wrath, Vengeance and Displeasure*, and doth not consider them in any Respect as disciplinary Inflictions for our Profit. Once indeed he glances upon them in this View, *p.* 14. 20. *God's Ways are — conducted towards us as becomes a wise and righteous Governour, sometimes for our Trial and Warning, and sometimes for our Correction and Punishment.* And *p.* 23. 13. he speaks of a *painful Death* being *Part of the Trial* of some, and of *pious Sufferers who behave well in dying.* But these are only transient Thoughts, and overlook'd in the main Body of his Argument, which indeed would have fallen to the Ground had they been inserted. Now seeing the Scriptures, as I have shewn above, do expressly represent Sufferings, Sorrows and our common Mortality, as consistent with
the

the Favour and Blessing of God, and as a Means of Reformation and Improvement in Virtue and Piety; yea, even the most dreadful Visitations as intended for a kind Warning to all Posterity, to caution them against Wickedness; it is very evident *R. R.* in his Argument has not given us a Notion of the Calamities of Life agreeable to the Mind and Word of God. — Besides, do we not find in Fact that the *best of Men*, and the chief Favourites of Heaven, have been, and may still be, made very unhappy by many Calamities and Oppressions, and not unfrequently on account of Virtue itself, which will not suffer them to practise Iniquity to procure their Pleasure and Peace; and that, on the other Hand, the *worst of Men* abound in the Comforts and Pleasures of Life? *p.* 173. And how will *R. R.* reconcile this with his Scheme? — Further; if Afflictions are mere Punishments, mere Tokens of God's Wrath, Vengeance and Displeasure against us, for the Sin of another Man, of which we know nothing but by History, then how can we make a due Improvement of them? The Scriptures tell us they ought to be considered as the Chastisement of our FATHER and best Friend, and to have a good Effect upon our Hearts, and teach us Patience, Faith, Humility, Repentance, and bring forth the peaceable Fruit of Righteousness: But upon his Scheme, they can bring forth no Fruit but a stupid

Horror and Despair, under the Influence of this gloomy Sentiment, that we are at the arbitrary Disposal of an irresistible Power, who subjects us to his Wrath, Curse and Vengeance for a Sin of which we neither have, nor can possibly have the least *Consciousness or Remembrance*, p. 82.

FROM Judgments inflicted upon particular Nations and Persons he infers that *we*, i. e. all Mankind, are not *the Favourites of Heaven*, but under the Wrath of God, p. 17. — 21. l. 6. — 47. 5. But to infer the State of the *whole* from the Case of *some*, can't be a fair Way of arguing.

I cannot see that he has made good several of the Facts from whence he draws his Conclusions. To begin with the first; surely he is not quite just in pronouncing *the Form of our Earth in its present Divisions — of Seas and Shores, — irregular, abrupt and horrid. Doth it look*, (saith he, p. 11.) *like the regular and beautiful Product of a God of Wisdom and Order?* Survey a Map of the World, and say, does the Form of it strike our Eyes with any natural Beauty or Harmony? Hath it the Appearance of a lovely well-adjusted Piece of Workmanship? or rather, doth it not bear strongly on our Sight the Ideas of Ruin and Confusion? And he instances in *vast broken Mountains, stupendous Cliffs and Promontories,*
dread-

dreadful Precipices, immense Extents of waste and barren Grounds, &c. p. 11—17. — Several able Pens have given a very different Representation of the Earth, by shewing the Beauty, Connection and Use of all its Parts. P. 10. l. 13. We collect the Perfections of God from the Appearances of the World. *Rom. i. 20.* the Apostle tells us, *That the invisible Things of God, the Perfections of his Nature, are, ever since the Creation of the World, clearly seen, being understood, or attended to, by the Things that are made.* Now, if the Earth doth not look like the Product of a God of Wisdom and Order, but bears strongly on our Sight the Ideas of Ruin and Confusion, from what Appearances in it can we deduce the Wisdom and Goodness of God? Might not an Atheist, who denies the World to be the Product of Wisdom and Goodness, use the very Argument R. R. here advances? Can it serve any Purpose of Piety or true Religion to degrade the Workmanship of God, or to represent it as *irregular, abrupt and horrid*? 'Tis a Rule of Scripture, *Job xxxvi. 24.* *Remember that thou magnify his Work which Men behold.* According to the Spirit of Truth, *all God's Works bless and praise the Lord in all Places of his Dominion, Psal. ciii.* Even those R. R. thinks irregular and *horrid*, *cxlviii. 7, 8, 9.* The Psalmist describing and admiring the Constitution and Furniture of the Earth and Sea, *Psal. civ.* in the

24th Verse cries out, *O Lord, how manifold are thy Works! in Wisdom hast thou made them all: the Earth is full of thy Riches. So is this great and wide Sea, &c.* In short, whatever Philosophers may imagine; however God might foresee all or any Part of Mankind would rebel against him, *p. 14. 14.* or what Magazines of Wind, Flood and Fire soever are lodged in this Earth, or however they may have been already, or shall hereafter be applied in Judgment or Destruction, (as God may turn even the most useful and illustrious of his Creatures into the Instruments and Executioners of his Vengeance;) yet we have no Authority from Scripture to say, that the Earth looks like a *Ruin*, or that its *present Constitution*, so far as *R. R.* here considers it, is at all different from what it was, when upon a Review God pronounced it and all its Furniture *VERY GOOD*, *Gen. i. 31.* Consequently, we have no Authority from Scripture to say, that the present Form and Furniture of the Earth carry in them evident Tokens of God's Displeasure against the Inhabitants of it, much less of his Displeasure antecedently to any Sin they have committed in their own Persons. On the contrary, the Scripture doth frequently assure us, that the present Form and Furniture of the Earth is full of God's Riches, Mercy and Goodness, and of the most evident Tokens of his Love and Bounty to the Inhabitants.

AMONGST

AMONGST the various Plants and Animals, which the bountiful Lord of all has provided for our Pleasure, as well as Use, there are some noxious, fierce and venomous. But I cannot agree with R. R. when he tells us, *Disease, Anguish and Death have entered into the Bowels and Veins of MULTITUDES by an innocent and fatal Mistake of pernicious Plants and Fruits for proper Food*, p. 17. 28. Some may have suffered by such a Mistake; but the Reason and Experience of Mankind have generally been not only a sufficient Guard against such Plants and Fruits, but also have turned them into Medicines for their Pains and Diseases. Much less can I join him in representing the *Children of Men*, in their present State, as *formed to be the living Prey of Bears and Tygers, Wolves and Lions*, and our *Life and Limbs as made to become Heaps of agonizing Carnage; and our Flesh and Bones as given up to be crushed and churned between the Jaws of Panthers and Leopards, Sharks and Crocodiles*, p. 19. 22. As he states our Condition, there is no living on any Side of the Globe for poisonous Plants and Beasts of Prey, venomous Insects, Vipers, Hornets, Muscato's and vexatious Flies. He adds, p. 20. 3. *Let Brutes be contented to prey upon their Fellow-Brutes, but let Man be their Lord and Ruler, and free from their Assaults; and so he was*, (saith the Jewish Lawgiver) *in his*
first

44 *A more extensive Dominion over the first and innocent State.* But now R. R. tells us, weak Man is no more their Lord and Ruler, for he can neither govern nor resist those fierce Creatures. P. 19. 8.—The Jewish Lawgiver mentions the brutal World in Man's first and innocent State only in Gen. i. 28. *God said unto them, Have Dominion over the Fish of the Sea, and over the Fowls of the Air, and over every living Thing that moves upon the Earth.* And Chap. ii. 19, 20. where God brought every Beast of the Field, and every Fowl of the Air unto Adam to see what he would call them. And the same Jewish Lawgiver, about 1600 Years after Adam lost his Innocence, informs us, that God ordered all the Beasts, Cattle, creeping Things and Fowls in unto Noah in the Ark, Gen. vii. 14, 15. and moreover renewed to him and his Posterity, namely all Mankind, the Grant of Dominion and Lordship over all the Creatures in as full and ample a Manner as to Man in his first innocent State. Gen. ix. 2. *And God said unto Noah and his Sons, the Fear of you, and the Dread of you shall be upon every Beast of the Earth, and upon every Fowl of the Air, and upon all that moveth upon the Earth, and upon all the Fishes of the Sea; into your Hand are they delivered.* And adds an Instance of Dominion not granted to Man in his first and innocent State; ver. 3. *Every moving Thing that liveth shall be Meat for you.* Hence it appears that we have not only the same, but even

even a more extensive Dominion over Fowls, Fishes, Beasts, and all that moves upon the Earth than Man had in *his first and innocent State*. And it is well known Men live generally in Safety in all habitable Parts of the World, and in different Countries are daily exercising Dominion not only over the tamer Tribes, but over Lions, Panthers, Sharks, Whales, Vipers, &c. however a Man now and then may happen to be slain by them, which is very seldom, or however God may at any Time by them execute Judgment upon wicked Nations or Persons; a Work in which he employs the Angels themselves. Our Reason renders us more than a Match for the Brutes, were they more numerous than they are. See *Psal. viii. 5—9. Jam. iii. 7.* Therefore R. R. cannot infer upon this Head, that we are not *in the full Favour and Love of the God that made us, and that he has quartered his Armies, his Legions among us, as Princes do in a rebellious Country,* P. 21. 25.

THORNS and Thistles are the Effect of a *Curse* upon the Ground for the Sin of Man; but for all that, we have no Authority to say Man himself was cursed either in Body, Mind or Posterity. For whatever a Curse be, whatever Relation *Adam* had to the Ground, or however the Curse pronounced upon the Ground might affect him, or his Posterity,

Posterity, the Scripture doth not say, *cursed be thou, Adam, or thou, Eve; but cursed be the Ground.* Man's Labour was increased, but the Ground only was cursed. So *Lamech*, *Gen. v. 29.* called his Son's Name *Noah*, saying, *this same shall comfort us concerning our Work, and Toil of our Hands, because of the Ground which the Lord has cursed.* Which Curse consists in the diminished Fertility of the Earth; notwithstanding which, so far as it is fruitful, it is under God's Blessing. *Psal. lxxv. 9, &c.—Thou visitest the Earth,—thou greatly enrichest it with the River of God, thou blessest the springing thereof. Thou crownest the Year with thy Goodness.* In the Sentence no Curse is pronounced upon either *Adam's* Body, Soul, or Posterity. And good Reason why; because all know Grace was provided and intimated even before the Sentence was pronounced, (*Gen. iii. 15.*) consequently, however the outward Condition of *Adam* or his Posterity might for wise Reasons be altered, they were still the Objects of God's Love and Blessing. But had a Curse been pronounced upon *Adam's* Posterity for his Sin, it would not have implied the Imputation of his Sin to his Posterity, or their being on account thereof consider'd as Criminals. Because the Curse upon the Ground for *Adam's* Sin implies no such Imputation. So *Deut. xxviii. 18. Cursed be the Fruit of thy Body, and the Fruit of thy Land.* The
Curse

The Propagat. of Mankind not under a Curse. 47
Curse upon the *Fruit of the Body* no more implies the Imputation of the Parent's Sin to the Child, than the Curse upon the *Fruit of the Land* implies the Imputation of the Owner's Sin to the Ground.

WE have no Authority, and surely should have no Inclination, to make Curses where God has pronounced none. And I dare say R. R. upon Reflection will be as little pleased as I am with one he has made for the female Part of our Species under the next Head, the Sorrow of Child-bearing. P. 24. *Are not, as he, the multiplied Sorrows, with which the Daughters of Eve continually bring forth their Young, a pretty evident Token that they are not in their original State of Favour with that God who created them, and pronounced a Blessing upon them in their Propagation? The Jewish Lawgiver in the Beginning of his History tells us, that God blessed the first Man and Woman that he made, and bid them be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the Earth and subdue it: And the same ancient Writer within a Page or two tells us, that these multiplied Sorrows in the Bearing and Birth of Children are pronounced as a CURSE from an offended God. Surely the Curse is not as old as the Blessing? But Sin and Sorrow came in together, and spread a wide CURSE on the Birth of Man, which before stood under a Divine Benediction.* I wonder R. R. could write this without dropping

ping a Tear, or some kind Word of Consolence. It gives the female Sex, of whom Nature teaches us to be particularly tender, the most frightful Notions of a State of Pregnancy, and the Hour of Travail, and when they need the greatest Supports robs them of their best Consolation, the FAVOUR of God, and fills their Minds with the most dreadful of all Terroures, his CURSE. But let them not be discouraged: I will venture to say, this Author himself upon second Thoughts will be convinced he has quite misrepresented the Case. For the Sorrow of Child-bearing is not inflicted as a CURSE. *Gen. iii. 16.* The LORD God doth not say, the Woman was CURSED with this Sorrow; and therefore R. R. has no Right to say so. Again; whereas he saith, *There is a wide Curse spread over the Birth of Man, which before stood under a Divine Benediction*; for God blessed the first Man and Woman, and bid them be fruitful and multiply and replenish the Earth. This stands in direct, tho' I am perswaded, not designed Contradiction to the Truth and Evidence of Scripture. For the *Jewish* Law-giver tells us, *Gen. ix. 1.* that God, sixteen hundred and fifty six Years after he had pronounced a Blessing upon the first Man and Woman, repeated, at the Restauration of the World after the *Deluge*, the *very same Blessing* to *Noah* and his Sons, from whom all Mankind were again to be propagated. *And God*

BLESSED

BLESSED *Noah and his Sons, and said unto them, be fruitful and multiply and replenish the Earth.* Hence it is undeniably evident, that as Sorrow in Child-bearing was not pronounced as a Curse, so it was not inconsistent with, nor intended to exclude the original BLESSING pronounced upon Propagation. And further it is evident, that the Propagation of the Species, in every Part of the World, has been and still is under the *very same Blessing* that was pronounced upon the first Man and Woman. Marriage, designed for the Propagation of Mankind, is a Divine Ordinance; and God's Ordinances are not under his CURSE, but under his BLESSING. Therefore every married Woman is in that State which the Wisdom and Goodness of God has ordained, and while she is with Child, and when she is in Labour, she ought not to be *afraid with any Amazement*, 1 Pet. iii. 6. but to put her Trust in God, considering herself as under his Blessing and Protection, notwithstanding the Sorrow of Child-bearing. Which, no doubt, is wisely appointed in our present State to promote the moral Good, and may have its Use in taking off that Levity and Thoughtlessness which otherwise might have attended Propagation, and to suggest a thousand serious Reflections to every Mother.—

UNDER the following Head he brings in another imaginary CURSE, namely, *Man's*
E *eating*

eating Bread in the Sweat of his Face; which he tells us *Moses acknowledges to be another of the Curses of God for the Sin of Man*, p. 27. l. 16. *Moses acknowledges no such Thing.* Through the first Offence the Labours of Life were increased, not as a *Curse*, but, with regard to our moral and eternal State, as a *Blessing*. Labour is a Duty, and wholesome Discipline. Bad as the World is, it would be very much worse, if we were not to work or starve. Idleness is the Source of all manner of Wickedness. Every Man in the Use of his Limbs and Senses may get a Subsistence; and the labouring Part of Mankind are even more chearful than those that have nothing to do, enjoy more Health and Vigour of Body, and are blest with more Innocence and Peace. Poor and coarse Fare may sustain a happy Life. Having Food and Raiment we ought, and *may*, therewith be content. Cottages are stored with more Comfort than Palaces. Slaves and Drudges may be virtuous and pious. Every Condition has its Advantages as well as Temptations, and every Man may be happy if he chooses. Therefore Labour and low Life are no Mark that Man is not the Object of God's Favour, nor a Proof that he is not innocent.

THE next Topic of *R. R.*'s Argument is the Character, Temper and Quality of Mankind in general with Regard to Religion and
Virtue,

Virtue. I do not think that we, who are not capable of precisely deciding in what Degree any Person, even of our intimate Acquaintance, is either virtuous or vicious, are qualified to pass a true Judgment upon the moral State of the whole World. There are so many Things to be taken into the Account, as Capacities, Means, invincible Prejudices, Degrees of Temptation, which are known only to God, that it is impossible we should make a just Estimate of the Wickedness of Mankind. However I dare not venture to conjecture, that either more or less than a Quarter of the World shall but be saved; much less can I ground an Argument upon a Bottom so doubtful. *P.* 53. Nor dare I say, *there is no Man lives one Day without breaking the Law of God in Thought, Word or Deed*, p. 41. 7. Nor, that *among the Heathens there are whole Nations wicked without an Exception*, p. 38. 1. I sometimes think we carry our Censures of the *Heathens* too far. There may be more Truth, Honesty, Goodness and Sobriety among them than we are aware. And possibly, every thing considered, they may be less vicious than the Christian World in general. Our Lord tells us, *Matt.* viii. 11, 12. That in the last Day *many shall come from the East and the West*, from all Parts of the World, *and shall sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven; but the Children of the Kingdom*, who

52 *Sinfulness of the World no Proof that*
have been favoured with the Privileges of
God's visible Church, *shall be cast out into*
outer Darknefs.

BUT if we allow Mankind to be as wicked as *R. R.* has represented them to be, suppose there is not one upon Earth that is *truly* righteous and without Sin, and that some are very enormous Sinners; yet will it not from thence follow, *that they are naturally corrupt, or that every Man brings a sinful Nature into the World, destitute of the Image and Favour of God, and without Sufficiency of Power to do his Duty*; which is the grand Point *R. R.* is labouring to establish. For if sinful Action infers a Nature originally corrupt, then whereas *Adam*, according to *R. R.* and those in his Way of thinking, committed the most heinous and aggravated Sin that ever was committed in the World; for, according to them, he had greater Light than any other Man in the World to know his Duty, and greater Power than any other Man to fulfil it, and was under greater Obligations than any other Man to Obedience; he sinned when, according to *R. R.* he knew he was the *Representative* of Millions and Millions, and that the happy or miserable State of all Mankind depended upon his Conduct, which never was nor can be the Case of any other Man in the World; he sinned when he knew his Sin might not only pave a
Road

Road for a few Miles, but, in Proceſs of Time, the whole Globe with Skulls, *R. R.* p. 48. 8. therefore I ſay, if ſinful Action infers a Nature originally corrupt, then (whereas *Adam*, by the Confeſſion of *R. R.* committed the moſt heinous Sin that ever was committed in the World) it will follow, that his Nature was originally corrupt, that he was made with evil Inclinations, brought a ſinful, corrupt Nature into the World, deſtitute of the Image and Favour of God, and without a Sufficiency of Power to do his Duty. But if we cannot infer from *Adam's* Tranſgreſſion, that his Nature was originally corrupt ; if, notwithſtanding his finning beyond any Offences Mankind have ſince committed, it be true, that he was made in Innocence, with a pure, uncorrupt Nature, in the Divine Image and Favour, and with a Sufficiency of Power to do his Duty ; neither can we infer from the Tranſgreſſions of all, or of any Part of Mankind, that their Nature is originally corrupt, but, notwithſtanding their Wickedneſs, however aggravated, it may be true, that every Man brings into the World an innocent, pure and incorrupt Nature, in the Divine Image and Favour, and with a ſufficient Power to do his Duty. Therefore if *R. R.* can either prove that *Adam* never finned, or will admit that his Nature was corrupt and ſinful as it came out of God's Hands, then his Argument may ſtand good. But if he allows

Adam sinned even in the aggravated Manner he has described or suggested, and yet notwithstanding that he was made in the Image and Favour of God, his Argument, for any thing I see, must inevitably and irrecoverably fall to the Ground. And thus all he has said, and argued from the culpable Ignorance, the Lewdness, Wickedness, &c. of Mankind from p. 27 to 35, or in any other Part of his Book, fairly amounts to nothing. And thus also the Argument, That if we were born innocent we should continue sinless, appears to be equally fallacious; for it is granted that *Adam* was created innocent, and yet did not continue sinless. So that from our *Sinfulness* nothing can be concluded with reference to the State in which we are born, any further than that as *Adam* was created, so we are born in a Capacity of being sinful.

AGAIN; if our first Parents had animal Passions which they indulged in eating the forbidden Fruit, if they gave *Way to the Allurements of Sense, or Appetite, or Passion*, (p. 105.) and thereby introduced into their Breasts the uneasy Perturbations of *Fear* and *Shame*, and yet their Nature was not originally corrupt, but made in the Image and Favour God; then it will follow, notwithstanding the *inward Anguish that springs from all our uneasy and unruly Passions of every Kind*, that our Nature, as well as that of our first Parents,

Parents, is not corrupt from the Birth, but made in the Image and Favour of God. This takes off what he has advanc'd with regard to our Passions, p. 51, 52.

AGAIN, *Adam* by his Sin brought himself under the righteous Judgment of God, and subjected himself and Posterity to various Sufferings, and yet his Nature was not originally corrupt, nor destitute of the Divine Image and Favour: Therefore, if it does not follow, that *Adam's* Nature was originally corrupt, &c. notwithstanding he subjected himself and Posterity to various Sufferings and to Death itself; neither will it follow, that the Nature of any Man, or Body of Men, is originally corrupt and destitute of the Image and Favour of God, altho' they by their Sin bring upon themselves and Posterity any kind of Sufferings, or Death itself. — This Argument strikes out all that *R. R.* has said in Reference to all those Calamities, Afflictions, Desolations and Destructions, which God may inflict upon Nations, or particular Persons for their own Sins: And those Calamities may take in all the Instances of Suffering and Misery which *R. R.* takes into his List, except the Sorrow of Child-Birth, the Sorrow of Labour and Toil in earning our Bread, and the common Mortality to which we are all subjected. Those we suffer in Consequence of the one Offence,

and may come upon us whether we do or do not sin, whether we are virtuous or vicious. But as for *all other* Calamities, they may be inflicted, and *R. R.* cannot prove that they are not inflicted, for particular, personal Sins. Even the Sufferings of Children may be for the Correction and Punishment of the Sins of Parents.

AGAIN, if our first Parents by their Sin brought Suffering not only upon themselves, but also upon others, even upon all their Posterity, and yet the Nature of our first Parents was not originally corrupt, nor destitute of the Image and Favour of God; then will it follow very clearly, that the Nature of those who suffer purely in Consequence of their Sin, or the Sin of any other Person, is not corrupt originally, nor destitute of the Image and Favour of God. For if their Nature was not originally corrupt, who committed the Sin and occasioned the Suffering, with what Reason, Truth or Argument can it be suppos'd, that my Nature is originally corrupt, who am no ways concern'd in the Commission of that Sin either as Principal or Accessary, but only am thereby subjected to Suffering? If the Nature of the real Criminal was not originally corrupt, but made in the Image of God, it will even more strongly follow, that my Nature, who as a Sufferer am merely passive, and no Criminal
with

with regard to the Transgression which introduced the Suffering; it will, I say, follow more strongly, that my Nature is not corrupt or destitute of the Image and Favour of God. This Argument takes off all that *R. R.* has said with regard to the Sufferings which are brought upon us in Consequence of *Adam's* Sin. For if his Nature was made innocent who was the *Sinner*, we may more strongly conclude that *our* Nature is made innocent who are only the *Sufferers*. For if *Sin* and *Transgression* will not infer a Nature originally corrupt, much less will mere *Suffering*, which may happen where there is no Sin, as in the Case of Brutes and Infants; or where there is the most perfect Obedience, as in the Case of our blessed *LORD*.

THUS *R. R.*'s Argument, whereby he attempts to prove from the *Sinfulness and Misery of Mankind*, that our Nature is sinful and corrupt from the Birth, and without the Image and Favour of God, is proved to be altogether insufficient in every Part.

I may add, that from the present State of Things, an Argument may be taken directly opposite to his. He has given us a labour'd Account of the Sufferings and Calamities of human Life: But what are these in Comparison of our Enjoyments? Is there nothing in human Life but Wickedness and Calamity?

ty? How much larger a Catalogue might he have presented of the rich Furniture of the Earth for our Use and Pleasure, and the daily and most extensive Blessings of God to all the World? He has given to all a rational Nature, a noble Gift, capable of the Knowledge, Obedience and Imitation of God, and of being improv'd to such a Degree of Excellency as shall in his Esteem qualify us for immortal Honour and Glory. In him all live and move and have their Being. He causes his Sun to shine even on the Evil and Ungrateful. He doth good to all Mankind, giving them Rain from Heaven and fruitful Seasons, filling their Hearts with Food and Gladness. His watchful Providence guards our Health and Peace, is mindful of us, and visits us every Morning. What Variety of Materials has he provided for our safe, commodious and pleasant living? How well has he furnished us with Medicines to ease our Pains, cure our Wounds, and heal our Diseases; and at the same Time given Skill to the Physician and Surgeon to apply them? Were I to enumerate all the Instances of God's Goodness that fall under our Observation, the Discoveries of his Favour to those who do his Will, the Dispensations he has appointed to instruct and reform Mankind, and lead them in the Way of Truth and Happiness; or were I to reckon up all the Instances of Virtue, Justice and Goodness that

that are to be found in the World ; (for the World is not *all* Wickedness ; *R. R.* himself, not very consistently indeed with his Scheme, tells us, there are some Men who *have several NATURAL Virtues, as Temperance, Good-humour, Compassion, Moderation, &c.* p. 126, in the Notes, and p. 171.) the wholesom Laws and Constitutions for maintaining Justice, defending Innocence, and punishing the Wicked ; the noble Benefactions for promoting Literature, relieving the Poor and Distressed ; the several not only curious but most useful Arts, Sciences, and Inventions which Men have discovered ; (and consider whose Goodness it is which supports and aids the rational Faculty in these and other useful Discoveries) in a Word, were I to insist upon the Particulars of God's Goodness, and what is praise-worthy among Men, I should write a Book much larger than *R. R's* ; and might at every Article, with much more Truth, ask, Are these Creatures, so well in in every respect provided for, under God's Wrath and Displeasure ? Is their Nature the Object of his Hatred and Curse ? Are they not evidently the Care of his Goodness ? Is he not manifestly their FATHER ? Would he have opened his Hand so liberally had he not loved them, and delighted to do them good ? Is he not working continually among them by his Power and Providence ? How could they live if he did not every Moment uphold

uphold and guard their Being? Doth he not feed and clothe them every Day? Do they not taste his Mercy in every Sup and Morfel? Doth not his Mercy digest their Food? Doth not his Mercy beat in every Pulse, reciprocate in every Breath, found in every Ear? And are not the glorious Works of his Hands and the Perfections of his Nature evidently expos'd to every Eye? And from the Works and Virtues that are found among them, doth it not appear Men are Creatures capable of the noblest Actions and Attainments? Who then can be so inconsiderate as to vilify the human Nature, or pronounce Man a contemptible Being, and neglected or forsaken of his Maker? — He visits them with sore Judgments.—True; but such Judgments happen but seldom; and are intended to awaken, correct and reform. — He inflicts frequently lesser Calamities.—True; but he doth not always chide; his Blessings and Mercies are new every Morning, and generally far exceed in Proportion any Sufferings he brings upon us: And even those Afflictions are intended to discipline and exercise our Virtue, and so to promote the moral Good, and our truest and everlasting Happiness. — He is born under a Hazard of living in Sin, and perishing for ever.—True; but this results from the very Nature of a State of Probation, which places Man under a Possibility of sinning and of being destroy'd. But this is no
Fault

Fault of his Nature, nor any Defect in the Favour of his Maker. If he lives in Sin, 'tis his own foolish and wicked Choice; if he is destroy'd, he destroys himself. His Maker has no Pleasure in the Death of the Sinner, but has furnish'd him with all Powers and Means, consistent with his being in a State of Trial, to teach, and reclaim him. *He is the Saviour of all Men*, 1 Tim. iv. 10. *He would have all Men to be saved, and to come unto the Knowledge of the Truth*, 1 Tim. ii. 4. And so greatly doth he delight in the Salvation of Men, sinful as they are, that he sent his only-begotten Son for their Redemption, *to be the Propitiation for the Sins of the whole World*, 1 John ii. 2. But some Parts of the Earth are not by far so much enlightened with the Knowledge of God, of his Will and Grace as others.—True; but is not the Work of the Law written in all their Hearts, and will not the Father of all deal in Mercy and Equity with all his Creatures, and make all favourable Allowances for the unavoidable Defect of Means and Advantages? — Thus 'tis evident, that in forming a true Judgment of the Relation in which the present World stands to God, Things not only may, but in Justice to the Nature of Man and him who form'd it, ought to be set in a View quite different from that which *R. R.* has exhibited.

S E C T. IV.

Some Consequences of the Doctrine of Original Sin.

BESIDES, R. R. would do well to consider, whither his Argument and Representation of Things have led him, and whither they may possibly lead such as draw proper Conclusions from them.

I can't digest that Sentiment, p. 48. l. 14. *Add to this all the former Miseries, and then say, Whether this World doth not look like a Province half forsaken of its gracious Governor, or almost given up to Mischief and Misery?* But as this may be an Inadvertency, I shall only observe, That the *Mischief* which is in the World is from the Wickedness of Men; and the *Misery* is from a wise and good Governor, to correct and reform that Wickedness; therefore, notwithstanding both, what the Scriptures constantly assert is true, that *God is the King of all the Earth*, Psal. xlvii. 7. *his Kingdom ruleth over all*, — ciii. 19. Nor of his has he left himself without Witness, in that he doth good to all, giving Rain from Heaven and fruitful Seasons, &c. *Acts* xiv. 17.

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BUT by his Principles R. R. is lead *professedly* to maintain, That Men have not a sufficient Power to perform their Duty; and what then will become of all Obligation to Duty? For if I have no Power, or, which is all one, no sufficient Power to do my Duty, then is it evident, with all equitable and honest Judges, that I have no Duty to do. For no Man can be obliged to do, nor can any reasonable Being expect he should do what he has not sufficient Power to do. Yet R. R. affirms, P. 41, 42. *That in our present State the Propensities of the Will and Affections to that which is evil are so much superior, and prevalent to the weak Influences of Understanding, Reason and Conscience; and that the outward Temptations to which Mankind are exposed all around them—especially in the Vigour and Perfections of animal Life, are so abundantly too strong to be resisted by the infeebled Faculties of Reason and Conscience, that we must be forced to acknowledge, that the moral and practical Powers of Mankind, in the present State, are by no means proportionate to the Law of God, and to his Duties, but vastly inferior to them.*—What the Powers, Appetites and Temptations of particular Persons are, and the precise Proportion they bear to God's Law and every Man's Duty, is known to God alone. Here we are no Judges. Only in general we may very safely conclude, considering that the Scripture no where teaches that

that we have not a Sufficiency of Power to perform our present Duty ; considering that the Scripture, on the other Hand, every where exhorts us to the Discharge of our Duty, and that we shall in the last Day be condemned not for any Propensities to Evil we brought into the World with us, but for the *wicked and slothful* Neglect of our Duty, *Matt.* xxv. 26. considering these Things, and also that the *Judge of the whole Earth* will certainly *do right*, requiring much only where he has given much, and accepting little where he has given but little, and will condemn no Man for not doing what he had not sufficient Powers to do ; we may very safely and assuredly conclude, that Mankind in all Parts of the World have sufficient Powers to do that Duty which God requires of them, and that he requires of them no more than what they have sufficient Powers to do. — But here *R. R.* replies, *P.* 43. l. 1. *That the Demands of a Law must not exceed the Powers of an innocent and new-made CREATURE, just as HE comes from the Hand of God ; but when HE has some Way or other ruined and enfeebled, perverted or broken HIS original Powers, or brought an evil Bias into them, may not the LAW of God continue to demand such Obedience which HE has not at present Sufficiency of Power to yield or perform ?* — Here *R. R.* considers all Mankind in all Ages as one CREATURE, who, when HE came out of the Hand of
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of God, had Powers to answer the Demands of the Law; but, having broken HIS original Powers, the LAW still justly demands the same Obedience of HIM *. And his Meaning is, that altho' thro' *Adam's* Sin the Powers of every Man in the World are ruined and broken, yet we are all as much obliged to Duty as he was in the supposed far superior Strength of his original Powers: But tho' we are all of one Species or Kind, yet are not each of us separate and distinct Creatures? Do we not *every one* of us come from the Hands of God as well as *Adam*? And where have we any Intimation in Scripture, that when his original Powers were broken (if they were at all broken) that the Powers of every Man were broken at the same Time? Doth God ever now, or will he hereafter in Judgment deal with Men *collectively* in their moral or religious Affairs, as if they were all but one *Being*, or *Creature*? Our Relation to the Law of God, and the Rule of Duty may with Certainty be gathered from the Process of Judgment in the last Day, which is frequently and clearly described in Scripture. And we always find that God will deal with Men in Judgment *singly* and *separately*, rendering to EVERY MAN according to *his* Deeds.

* In this perplex'd Way of talking he slides into this Insinuation, that we are a Race of Beings, who *by our own Folly—have perverted our Faculties*, l. 16. contrary to his own Principle, that our Nature is corrupted from the Birth, before we have done either Good or Evil.

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He will call EACH of his Servants to an account, him that has received *one* Talent, and him that has received *two*, and him that has received *five*. The individual Soul that sins shall die, and shall die for his own Sins alone. EVERY ONE of us shall give Account of HIMSELF, and of no other, to God, Rom. xiv. 12. Every one shall be judged according to the particular Powers and Talents God has given *him*, and not according to the Powers and Talents which God originally gave to *Adam*; for what have we to do, or where doth the Scripture say we have any thing to do with *Adam's* original Powers? Consequently R. R's Argument is built on the most absolute Confusion of Things and Persons, when in moral Affairs, and in Relation to the Rule of Duty, he considers Mankind as *one Being* or *Creature*; and when he tells us, that the Law or Rule of Duty has respect, not to our *present particular* Powers, but to the original Powers of *Adam*, which he supposes were superior to ours. But the Rule of Duty will also be the Rule of Judgment; therefore the Rule of Duty and the Rule of Judgment are the same, and bear the same Relation to our Powers. But the Rule of Judgment every where in Scripture bears Relation, not to any superior Powers with which *Adam* was endow'd, but only to the Powers, Capacities, Talents and Advantages God has given to EACH ONE of us severally and distinctly: Therefore the Rule of Duty
must

must have Relation to the very same Powers and no other. In Judgment God will not expect Duty beyond the Powers he has given, and therefore he must have given Powers equal to the Duty he expects.— But R. R. says, *may not the LAW of God continue to demand Obedience?* A LAW indeed may in the Letter of it continue to demand or command even when the Subject is quite disabled. But GOD himself commands our Obedience in Scripture, not only as a *Governour*, but as a *FATHER* desirous of our Welfare and Salvation, intreating and encouraging us to Obedience. Now to say that God, while he beseeches, persuades, and by all Motives of LOVE excites us to the Discharge of our Duty, at the same Time knows that we have not a Sufficiency of Power to do it, or that *our Powers are by no Means proportionable to our Duties but vastly inferior to them*, is in Effect to say, he is a Being that deserves no Manner of Regard, Which I am sure R. R. would be very loth to say or think.

BUT he thinks the Insufficiency of our Duty appears from the *constant and daily Sins of Mankind*, p. 42. l. 7. How far Mankind sin daily and constantly, neither he nor any Man living can certainly judge. But suppose Mankind do sin daily and constantly, yet doth it not follow, that they sin for want of sufficient Power to do their Duty; for then

they would not sin at all ; but because they neglect and abuse the Powers which God has given them. And if sinning infers a Defect of moral Power, then we must conclude *Adam* had not a Sufficiency of Power to obey God's Law : For he transgressed in a more heinous Manner than any of his Posterity.

AND whereas by this Error, which I cannot but think is a very great one, *R. R.* is led to assert, that *our Propensities to Evil and Temptations are too strong to be effectually and constantly resisted*, p. 41. that we are *almost under a Necessity of breaking God's Law*, p. 44. l. 18. that we are *unavoidably sinful in a Degree*, p. 86. 24. that our *Appetites and Passions will be breaking out notwithstanding our everlasting Watchfulness*, p. 343. l. 17. I wish he would seriously consider, how much this Doctrine is likely to favour Wickedness, and discourage Mankind from Duty and Obedience.

To finish this Head ; let it be well observed, that we have no Powers but what are *wholly* from God, who gives to different Men different Capacities, Powers and Talents ; and who has appointed that the Powers of every single Person should from his Infancy grow up slowly to a Maturity of Strength. Consequently, as in the eternal and unalterable Nature of Things, our Duty must be measured

fured by our *Powers*, to a lower but just beginning Degree of *Power*, a lower or less Degree of *Duty* must be incumbent. A Child, which can but just distinguish between good and evil, is not under Obligations to the same Duty as one in full Manhood ; nor is the Person at Manhood, who has but *one* Talent, obliged to the same Degree of Duty and Service with him that has *five* Talents ; tho' both are obliged to be sincere and faithful, and both have Powers sufficient for the Duty required of them. Further, as our *Powers* are *originally* from God, so the *Exercise* and *Improvement* of them must depend continually upon his Goodness and Blessing : *For in him we live, and move, and have our Being.* No Power can act beyond itself, or be a greater Power than it is, or do more than it is able ; consequently no Power can make itself to be a greater Power in any Respect than now it is, because then it would act beyond itself, or do more than it is able. A Power to raise but just fifty Pound Weight cannot make itself a Power to raise threescore ; for then it would do more than it can ; consequently, if our moral Powers are increased, improved, or attain to any higher Degree of Ability, that Increase or Improvement cannot be from the Power which was at first given, because it could never have acted beyond itself ; but the *increased* Power, as well as the *original* Power must be from God, who moreover hath

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wisely settled this Constitution, that he who honestly uses the Power he already has shall receive still more, according to what our blessed Lord has declared, *Matth. xiii. 12. Whosoever hath*, i. e. improves what God already hath given him, *to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance.* Thus for the *Being, Exercise and Improvement* of our Powers, we depend entirely and constantly upon the *Grace of God*. And, as we are surrounded with Temptations, it is our Duty and Interest too, as we value the Salvation of our Souls, to call on the Father of our Spirits, by Faith in *Christ Jesus*, being assured he will never leave the upright Mind destitute of any needful Strength or Succour. The Sufficiency of our Power to do our Duty is wholly from the *Grace or Favour* of God : but we must not therefore say, that we have no Sufficiency of Power to do our Duty ; and to say this under Pretence of exalting the Grace of God, is to exalt the Grace of God by denying it, or by denying his Grace has done any thing for us. Just as if to exalt the Goodness of God in preserving our Being, we should deny that we have any Being at all.

THAT we have no Reason to thank our Creator for our Being is a Point not only deducible from the common Doctrine of Original Sin, but professedly avow'd by *R. R. P. 368—373. I add, saith he, yet further,*
if

We may reasonably thank God for our Being. 71
if any Creature who comes into this World has a greater Probability of being foolish and sinful here, and miserable hereafter, than he hath of being wise and holy here, and happy in the other World ; neither then can he with Reason bless God, or give Thanks to the Author of his Being merely for his Existence, or coming into Life. Now since this is the Case, that the Bulk of Mankind are born to Trouble and Misery here, as Job v. 7. and as we have sufficiently shewn before ; and if they are also most likely to run into Sin and Folly in this World, and Misery in another (for almost the whole World lies in Wickedness, and there are few who shall be saved ;) this Prospect certainly forbids our mere Existence or Entrance into Life to be called a Blessing ; and consequently we cannot reasonably give Thanks on that Account to the Almighty Being that made us.—Methinks this is enough to open any Man's Eyes, and to shew the Nature and Tendency of the Doctrine we are examining. Unthankfulness was the Sin of the Heathen World, Rom. i. 21. When they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful. And here Unthankfulness is professedly established upon a supposed Principle of the Christian Religion. Divines maintain, that as soon as we receive our Existence we are under the Wrath, Curse, and heavy Displeasure of God ; and then the softest Inference (which in itself is a very high Degree of Ungodliness) is, that we cannot thank him

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for our Existence. But if we cannot reasonably thank God for our Entrance into Life, or Existence, which is the fundamental Blessing, without which we can receive no other, then we cannot reasonably thank him for any Thing besides.—And why can't we reasonably thank God for our Existence? Partly *because the Bulk of Mankind are born to Trouble and Misery here.*—But the Scriptures say that our present Troubles are for our spiritual Benefit, and to teach us true Wisdom, in order to our eternal Happiness.—And partly because *when we come into the World we have a greater Probability of being sinful here and miserable hereafter.* Surely R. R. doth not think himself a proper Judge of such Probability. But whence doth this Probability arise? Doth it arise merely from our being upon Trial, which necessarily includes a Possibility of falling into Sin and Folly?—But *Adam* in his innocent State was upon Trial as well as we, and I suppose we allow he had Reason to thank God for his Existence. Or is it because our Trial is not equally adjusted, but our Temptations are superior to our Powers? But this will impeach the Goodness and Justice of God, who appoints every Man's Trial. Or is it because we are worsted by Temptations, and run into Sin and Folly? This was *Adam's* Case, and yet his Existence was the Gift of God's Goodness. What if *the whole World lies in Wickedness*, and few therefore shall be saved? Have Men no Rea-

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son to be thankful because they are wicked, and ungrateful, and abuse their Being and God's Bounty? R. R. thinks we have Reason to bless God *under the Light of the Gospel for placing us within the nearer and easier Reach of Happiness, if our own evil Inclinations and Obstinacy do not withhold us from seeking after it.* But suppose our own evil Inclinations do withhold us; suppose under the Light of the Gospel the whole Christian World should lie in Wickedness, and but few Christians should be saved; is it therefore certainly true, that we cannot reasonably thank God for the Gospel? But R. R. thinks he can *alleviate and moderate this dismal Aspect and Situation of Things*, by telling us, *we are justly required to adore and worship, to admire and praise God, whose Wisdom and Goodness, as well as his Power shine bright in the Creation of this World, and in the Formation of Mankind, as well as all other Animals, tho' no reasonable Creature can possibly give Thanks but for some real Benefit*, p. 371.—We must *admire and praise* God for his Goodness in our *Formation*, but not give *Thanks* for the Gift of *Existence*. How is that? When God *form'd* us he gave us our *Existence*; and if that *Existence* is not worth Thanks, as being no *Benefit*, what can we *admire or praise* in our *Formation*? We must praise the great and glorious Being for the Creation of the World; and should we not praise him for *that which praises*? for an
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intelligent, rational Nature, which is more excellent and valuable in itself than any Part of the material World we behold with our Eyes?—*Unthankfulness* is a natural Consequence of the common Doctrīne of *Original Sin*. And I should think it equally infers, that we cannot reasonably LOVE the Author of our Existence. Indeed it greatly diminishes, if not totally excludes the Goodness and Mercy of God, and consequently forbids our Gratitude and discourages our Hope and Trust.

I DO not in the least doubt but *R. R.* is a true Friend and hearty Well-wisher to Mankind: and yet following his Principles too closely, he vilifies and pours great Contempt upon the human Nature. Throughout the Book he saith little or nothing in its Favour; while he plies every Argument, and insists upon every Topic to degrade it, as if adapted only to Folly and Wickedness, and sometimes treats it with too much Scorn. *Are there any of the brutal Kind that do not more regularly answer the Design of their Creation — than this illustrious Thing Man?* Pag. 327. 23. *Let us survey this sorry Creature MAN,* p. 332. l. 14.—*this sorry Life,* p. 337. l. 7. But we shall not despise MAN, if we consider that God has most illustriously manifested his *Kindness and Love to MAN*, (Tit. iii. 4.) sinful as he is, by sending his Son into the World, that through him we might have
eternal

eternal Life. Brutes act by Instinct, and therefore their Regularity is no more Virtue than the regular Motions of a Clock ; whereas Men are moral Agents, and act upon Choice, and therefore are far the more excellent Creatures in themselves, tho' they may misapply their nobler Powers in a Manner the Brutes are not capable of ; which is their own Fault, not the Fault of their Nature. Our Lord tells us, *a Man*, even in his present State, *is much better than a Sheep*, Matth. xii. 12. But he has established the Dignity and Excellence of our Nature in the most evident and surprizing Manner by being *made Flesh and dwelling among us*, taking upon him all the sinless Infirmities and submitting to the bitterest Sufferings of this *sorry Life*. Therefore our Nature is the Object of the Divine Love, and the Redeemer thought it deserving of his highest Regards.—Men are wicked.—The more the Pity. But we should not therefore treat them with Contempt, but rather labour to reform them by putting them in Mind of the Worth of their Nature, that they may live up to the Value God has set upon it.—And as the common Doctrine of *Original Sin* prompts us to vilify the human Nature ; so, if we act upon its Principles, we shall rather HATE than LOVE one another.

I MAY here take Notice of another Instance wherein R. R. has not done Justice to
our

our Nature. P. 333. l. 27. *The same Desires and Inclinations which belong to the animal Kind, attack the human Race also, but with greater Rage and Violence, and seem to demand their present Gratification : and that not at one Season of the Year only, but at all Seasons, with more Constancy than in other Creatures, and give the younger Crouds of Mankind many more Disturbances.*—The natural Propensity R. R. here speaks of is in itself an innocent Passion, implanted in *Adam's* Nature as well as ours, by the Wisdom of God, for valuable Purposes. But R. R. considers it here not in its proper Nature, but as a mere sensual, and even much worse than brutal Appetite ; or rather, as abused in the highest Degree by the wicked and unclean. Whereas it has no Existence in our Constitution till Years of Puberty, and then it advances gradually ; and besides the Divine Light of *Reason*, which by this Time ought to have made great Improvements, is attended with *Modesty*, unknown to Brutes, to check the Exorbitance of it, and to secure against the bold Approaches of Vice. And at full Age it is the Will of God, providing for our Comfort, that this Passion should incline us to Marriage. But as for the more than brutal RAGE and VIOLENCE with which it DEMANDS a PRESENT Gratification, this has no Place in the proper State and Course of Nature. The World supplies many Instances of Chastity preserved even
under

under strong Temptations. Great Numbers of both Sexes live many Years, several their whole Lives without gratifying this Passion at all. Courtship takes up Months, and sometimes Years ; and Marriage in all Nations of the World is generally solemnized with Deliberation, Decency and Order.—And if this Passion is in us the same all the Seasons of the Year, so is Reason also, its Governess. Further, it is *never* excited to a violent Degree but by previous Excesses and Follies ; (how far such religious Representations as R. R. has given of our Nature may tend to encourage a vicious Flame, he would do well seriously to consider) and by those, by Intemperance and lewd Conversation, it is true it may be excited to a monstrous Irregularity, and the Contagion may spread far. But this is UNNATURAL ; and we must not take the Measure of our Health and Enjoyments from a *Lazar-House*, nor of our Understanding from *Bedlam*, nor of our Morals from a *Goal*, nor of this Passion from *Harlots* and *Debauchees*.

AND now we are here, let us descend to the Case of Infants. P. 35. he says, *Mankind in its younger Years, before it is capable of proper moral Actions, discovers the Principles of Iniquity, and the Seeds of Sin. What young Ferments of Spite and Envy, what native Malice and Rage are found in the little Hearts of Infants,*

Infants, and sufficiently discovered by their little Hands, and their Eyes, and their wrathful Countenances, even before they have learned to speak, or to know good or evil. Surely R. R. has here laid on his Colours too strong. Ferments of Spite, Envy, native Malice and Rage in the little Hearts of Infants! Our Lord, who knew their Hearts better than we, and his Apostle give us different Ideas of them. Matt. xviii. 3. Except ye be converted and become as little Children, ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself, and become as this little Child, the same is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Here little Children are made Patterns of Humility, Meekness and Innocence. 1 Cor. xiv. 20. Brethren, be not Children in Understanding: howbeit in Malice be ye Children, i. e. have no Malice at all. Psal. cxxxi. 2. Surely I have behaved and quieted myself as a Child that is weaned of his Mother; my Soul is even as a weaned Child. We are upon Trial; and it is the Will of our FATHER, that our Constitution should be attended with various Passions and Appetites, as well as our outward Condition with various Temptations. But if we judge impartially we shall discover in our younger Years something better than the Principles of Iniquity, and the Seeds of Sin. Modesty, Curiosity, Fear, Emulation, natural Affection to Parents, and the Appetites necessary to preserve the animal Life, are most prevalent,

or

or alone have Existence in the State of Childhood. By *Modesty* and *Fear* they become entirely subject to Authority, are disposed to reverence their Superiors, and are rendered susceptible of good Impressions from the Instructions of those who are wiser than themselves, before whom Nature inclines them to submit their Spirits. And as all their Faculties are tender and supple, and as they are endowed with the noblest of all Principles, that of Reason and Understanding, as they have an early Sense of Truth, of Right and Wrong, of Duty to Parents and Governours, of the Being, Goodness, Power, and Omnipresence of God their Maker, I mean when duly instructed ; as their Hearts are strongly knit to their Parents, as they are fond of Commendation, observant of Examples, excited by Rivalship, and have sufficient Strength of Memory to retain what they can be taught, as they grow up under our Tuition very gradually, and their intellectual Capacities are opening and enlarging through the long Space from Infancy to Manhood ; all these are no small Advantages, under the Blessing of God, to their being happily trained up in the Way wherein they should go, and of receiving such a deep Tincture of Virtue and Religion as will give them a strong Bias and Disposition to both all their Days. Add to these natural Advantages the Grace of the Gospel, under which the Children of *Christians* are born, and Pa-

rents

rents have the greatest Encouragement, even the Hopes of eternal Life, to *bring up* their *Children in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord*. (See *Scrip. Doc.* p. 190, 191, 192.) And Numbers in all Ages of the World have risen by due Culture to very considerable Degrees of Excellence. Tho' after the best Education, Children in a State of Trial will have Appetites and Temptations to struggle with, as well as *Adam* in Paradise; and as he, so they may be seduced into Sin and Disobedience. But thereby they will not, any more than he, *publish the Iniquity and Shame of their Nature*, (*R. R.* p. 37. l. 19.) but of their own foolish Choice and Conduct. As to what our Author calls *young Ferments of Spite and Envy*, &c. they will be further considered in a more proper Place.

THE Miseries of Infants, which *R. R.* has described in a Manner that will have great Effect upon the Imagination, is another Topic from which he concludes *them to be a Race of Beings out of Favour with their Maker and under his Displeasure from their Birth*, p. 54. l. 17. — *Little miserable Beings, not treated as the innocent, harmless Creatures of a God of Love and Compassion, — but a little Sort of Criminals under some general Curse and Punishment*, p. 57. *and this before they know any thing of moral Good and Evil*, p. 54. — Strange Sort of Criminals! What a gloomy, unnatural,

tal, discouraging Notion must this give Parents of those tender Parts of themselves! He adds, p. 57. *If Mankind had stood in their original Innocence, surely their Infant-Offspring would have entered into the World under some general Word of Blessing. The God who made the first Parents of Mankind must certainly have blessed them, and said, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the Earth: and their Infants would have been born like little young Angels, ever easy and smiling in a Perfection of Innocence, and in Circumstances of Pleasure; and they would have grown up by many little Efforts of Goodness to the fuller Knowledge and Love of their Maker, and the Practice of every Virtue, surrounded with the Comforts and Satisfaction of an Infant-State, and guarded from every Mischief by a kind and watchful Providence. But, alas! the Case of Children is quite the Reverse of this Purity and Peace. Survey the Dangers and Miseries just mentioned, and say, Are these provided to receive young Angels just entering into Being? Were these Maladies and Grievs and Groans prepared to seize a Race of little Angels coming into our World? If Seraphs and Cherubs had been made to propagate in our Manner, would the great and good God have provided such Scenes of Pain and Peril, Disease and Death, to have met their young blooming Offspring at the very Gates of Life, and to have attended them all their Way; or would he have sent them so*

soon, and in such vast Multitudes to Death and Darkneſs? Would God have ever appointed a Race of Infant-Angels to have entered into a Being in the miſt of ſuch Infelicities, &c? — Here ſurely R. R. indulges too much to Fancy and Conjecture. However I am ſatisfy'd the Scriptures will not juſtify ſome of thoſe Sentiments. For whereas he tells us, that the Infant-Offspring of Mankind would in a State of Innocence have entered into the World under ſome general Word of Bleſſing, and in Proof of this quotes the original Bleſſing pronounc'd upon *Adam and Eve*, *Gen. i. 28. God bleſſed them, and ſaid, Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the Earth*; but that now the *Infant-Offspring of Mankind* are a *Race of Beings out of Favour with their Maker, under his Diſpleaſure even from the Birth, and under ſome general Curſe and Punishment*. This ſtands in direct, though I am ſatisfy'd not deſigned Contradiſtion to the Scriptures of Truth. For at the *Reſtauration* of the World, after the Deluge, being 1656 Years after the original Bleſſing was pronounced upon the Propagation and Birth of Mankind, the very ſame Bleſſing, in the very ſame Words, is expreſſly repeated, and pronounced upon *Noah and his Sons*, from whom all Mankind were again to be propagated; *Gen. ix. 1. And God bleſſed Noah and his Sons, and ſaid unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the Earth*. Hence it appears, that

that the Infant-Offspring of Mankind, however expos'd to suffering, come into the World under the same general Word of Blessing, under which they would have enter'd into it in a State of Innocence. And this likewise demonstrates, that the Sufferings of Infants are not the Effects of God's *Curse* and *Displeasure* against them, but consistent with his Blessing ; nor to be considered as *Punishments* inflicted upon *Criminals*, but as appointed for other wise and good Purposes, if not to themselves, yet to others. And the Lord of all Being can never want Time, Place or Power to compensate abundantly any Sufferings they now undergo in Subserviency to his good Providence.

S E C T. V.

A general Argument taken from what God has declared concerning the State of Mankind at the RESTAURATION of the World after the Deluge.

HAVING again mentioned the RESTAURATION of the World after the Deluge, I shall here take occasion to form a general Argument upon it ; thus. The Race of Man had two *Beginnings*, and two *natu-*

84 *The same Blessing upon Man at the
 ral Heads.* The first *Beginning* was at the
 CREATION of the World ; and the first *na-
 tural Head* was ADAM. The other *Begin-
 ning* of the human Race was at the RESTAU-
 RATION of the World after the Deluge ; and
 the second *natural Head* was NOAH, includ-
 ing his Sons. With respect to the first *Be-
 ginning* and *natural Head*, there are but
 three Passages in the History of the CREA-
 TION * from whence Divines infer or *can*
 infer the superior Excellency of *Adam's* State
 and Nature above ours : Namely, I.—*Gen. i.*
28. And God blessed them, and said unto them, Be
fruitful and multiply and replenish the Earth.—
 Hence 'tis concluded, that the Propagation
 and Birth of Mankind originally stood under
 the Divine *Blessing*, which now is under his
Curse. II.—*and have Dominion over the*
Fish of the Sea, and over the Fowl of the Air,
and over every living thing that moveth upon
the Earth. Hence it is infer'd, Man originally
 had

* The Passages I speak of relate immediately to the
 CREATION of *Adam*. As for his being put into the
 Garden, allow'd Access to the Tree of Life, and for-
 bidden to eat of the Tree of Knowledge, these do not
 relate to his *Creation*, but to the original *Dispensation* un-
 der which God placed him ; and therefore have nothing
 to do with my Argument. Only I may observe, that
 both the *Garden* and the *Tree of Life* had immediate
 Relation only to the Duration of Man's Life, and his
 outward Condition in the World. See *Scrip. Doct.*
p. 149. However, under the Dispensation of Grace we
 have a Grant of an heavenly *Paradise* and *Tree of Life*,
 far excelling those *Adam* enjoy'd.

had Dominion over the Brutes, which now we are depriv'd of. III. — *Gen. i. 27. God created Man in his Image, in the Image of God created he him.* Hence it is argued, that Man was originally made with a Nature pure and uncorrupt, which now in *us* is from the Womb corrupt and sinful. — But on the other Hand, with respect to the second *Beginning* and *natural Head*, the very *same* Blessings and Marks of Excellency are by God declared and pronounced upon the human Nature more expressly and emphatically at the RESTAURATION of the World, when the Race of Mankind was to be propagated anew from *Noah and his Sons*. I. — *Gen. ix. 1. And God blessed Noah and his Sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the Earth.* Which is repeated ver. 7. *And you, be ye fruitful and multiply, bring forth abundantly in the Earth, and multiply therein.* — Hence I conclude, with the clearest Evidence, that the Propagation and Birth of the human Race, in all Parts of the World, both with regard to Parents and the Fruit of their Bodies, is under the very *same* Blessing of God, which was pronounced originally upon our first Parents. II. — Ver. 2. *and the Fear of you, and the Dread of you shall be upon every Beast of the Earth, and upon every Fowl of the Air, upon all that moveth upon the Earth, and upon all the Fishes of the Sea; into your Hands are they delivered. Every moving thing that liveth*

86 *The same Blessing upon Man at the*
shall be Meat for you ; even as the green Herb
have I given you all things. — Hence I infer,
 that we have a *more* extensive Dominion
 granted to us over the brutal World, than
 was originally given to *Adam*. III.—Ver. 6.
Whoſo ſheddetb Man's Blood, by Man ſhall his
Blood be ſhed : for in the Image of God made
he, or hath he made, Man. — No Evidence
 can be produc'd that the *Image of God* is here
 to be underſtood differently from *Gen. i. 17*.
 On the other Hand, that it is *not* to be un-
 derſtood differently, but of the ſame Image
 in which *Adam* was made, is not only imply'd
 in the Uſe of the *ſame Word*, but is ſtrongly
 confirm'd by God's repeating here the origi-
 nal Bleſſing, and pronouncing it upon the fu-
 ture Formation of the human Nature ; and
 is fully eſtabliſhed by the Apoſtle *James*, who
 tells us expreſſly, *Chap. iii. 9.* that *Men*, in-
 definitely, *are made after the Similitude*, or
Likeneſs of God. Hence therefore I conclude,
 that whatever the Image of God be, in which
Adam was made, in the *ſame* Image of God
 Men in *Noah's Time* were, and to the End
 of the World were to be made. For no Man
 is to be murder'd, nor according to St. *James*
 to be *curs'd*, becauſe *Man, or Men, are made*
in the Image of God. See *Scrip. Doc. p. 175*.

Now, as theſe three Particulars do ſum-
 marily and diſtinctly contain all the Bleſſings,
 Endowments, Privileges and Preheminence
 confer'd

confer'd upon Man at the first *Beginning* of the human Race at the CREATION, before he was put into the *Garden*, and consequently before he had transgress'd the Law of his Trial, and before the *Judgment to Condemnation*, (mentioned *Rom. v. 16, 18.*) pass'd upon him; and before *all Men were made Sinners by his Disobedience*, ver. 19. And as every one of those three Particulars is expressly, clearly and severally repeated, and more emphatically and extensively pronounced upon Man at the other Beginning of the human Race, at the RESTAURATION, after the *Judgment* pass'd upon *Adam to Condemnation*, and came upon his Posterity; after *the many*, i. e. all Mankind, *were made Sinners by his Disobedience*; and after he was driven out of the *Garden* from the *Tree of Life*: This to me is a clear and undoubted Demonstration,

I. THAT *the Judgment which came upon all Men to Condemnation*, and the Expulsion from the *Garden* and *Tree of Life*, did no Ways alter the primary Relation in which God stood to Man, and Man to God: But, notwithstanding that Judgment and Expulsion, God was the God and Father of Mankind, as much as he was to the first made Man; and still Mankind were his Children and Offspring, for he gives them the very same *Blessing* he gave to the first made Man, and

88 *The same Blessing upon Man at the*
declares they, as well as he, were *made in his*
Image. Consequently, for the same Reason,

II. THAT the Love, Regards and Providence of God towards Mankind in general were still the very same as to Man at his first Formation.

III. THAT our Nature, as derived from *Noah*, our *second natural Head*, is attended with just the same Blessings, Endowments, and Pre-eminence natural and moral, which were pronounc'd or confer'd upon our *first natural Head* immediately as soon as he was created. Therefore we no more derive a corrupt Nature from our *second natural Head*, than we should have done from the *first* had he never sinned.

IV. THAT whatever came upon us in Consequence of the *Judgment to Condemnation*, viz. *Death, Labour and Sorrow*, came upon us no further, nor in any Sense, Kind or Degree but what was perfectly consistent with the original Blessing pronounc'd upon *Adam* at his CREATION ; for the very same Blessing is pronounc'd upon *Noah* and his Posterity at the RESTAURATION of the human Race. So that certainly that *Condemnation* which *came upon all Men* cannot be understood as inferring the *Wrath and Curse* of God upon Mankind, but only as subjecting us to
such

such Evils as were perfectly consistent with his Blessing, Love and Goodness declared to *Adam* as soon as he came out of his Maker's Hands; and consequently to such Evils as God in Righteousness might have subjected Mankind to *originally*, and from the Creation of *Adam*, had not the established Method of his Dispensations requir'd that those Evils should not be introduc'd into the World before *Adam* had sinned. And if those Evils which come upon us in Consequence of the *Judgment to Condemnation* do not prove that we are under God's *Wrath* and *Curse*, much less do any particular Calamities which particular Nations or Persons suffer for their *own* Sins prove that Mankind in general are under God's *Wrath* and *Curse*.

V. IT is no less evident, that when St. *Paul* says, *By the Disobedience of one many*, i. e. all Mankind, *were made Sinners*, he cannot mean they were *made Sinners* in any Sense whatsoever inconsistent with the original Blessing and Declaration of God pronounc'd upon Man in his innocent and sinless State: Because that very same Blessing and Declaration is repeated and pronounc'd upon Mankind, long after they were *made Sinners* by *Adam's* Disobedience. Consequently, being *made Sinners* must necessarily be understood in consistency with the original Blessing, Favour and Love of God to *sinless innocent Man*. The same thing may be concluded concerning that other
 Clause,

90 *Our Situation much happier than Adam's.*

Claufe, and fo Death came upon all Men, as far as which all have finned, or are in a State of Suffering.

FROM all which I conclude, taking in the Hope of eternal Life which is fet before us, that our State with Regard to the Blessing of God, and the Dignity and Faculties of our Nature, *in themselves considered*, is not inferior to that in which *Adam* was created. But, mistake me not; I say *in themselves considered*, not considered as any of us may have polluted and perverted our Nature, or displeased our God, by Sin: for that indeed will make a great Difference between the State of *Adam* before he finned, and the State of those who are defiled and enslaved by Sin. And further, as to the Channel through which God's Blessing is now convey'd, and as to the Foot upon which Mankind now stand with regard to their present Advantages and their future Happiness, our Case is much alter'd from that of *Adam* before he transgressed. For when *Adam* transgressed, not only was his Life and Being forfeited, but also the Existence of his Posterity, which was included in his; insomuch that had the Threatening been immediately executed upon *Adam* and *Eve*, they would have had no Posterity. Thus by the *DISOBEDIENCE* of one, the whole World of Mankind, with regard to their possible Existence, were lost; not by the
Imputa-

Imputation of *Adam's* Sin, but by the necessary and natural State of Things. Thus the Existence of the whole Race came under the Condemnation of the Law, as the whole Race would have been intercepted and cut off by it, had the Sentence been immediately inflicted upon our First Parents. But GOD our FATHER had the noblest Designs of Wisdom and Love in View for a lost World ; and his Grace *immediately* counter-acted the Effects and Consequences of *Adam's* Transgression by advancing a new and happy Dispensation, founded upon the *OBEDIENCE* and *Righteousness* of his Son, our Lord *Jesus Christ*. In which Dispensation the World is not only restored to Life, but gracious Provision is made for the Infirmities of Mankind ; Pardon provided not only for *Adam's* one Transgression, but also for all future Transgressions upon Repentance ; and all proper Means and Dispensations furnished for enlightening and reclaiming sinful Men, when they should forsake God, and be alienated from him thro' wicked Works. And whereas it was the Will of God that all Mankind should be subject to *Death*, in the same Dispensation a *Resurrection* is provided, and likewise an Inheritance in eternal Life to all who are fitly qualified for it. Thus the State of Things now stands ; very different indeed from that in which *Adam* was before he sinned. Yet this State not only secures to us the original

92 *Our Situation much happier than Adam's.*

ginal Blessings conferred upon him, but likewise makes us happy in the Riches of the Divine GRACE far beyond what he was favour'd with when created. For *then Adam* was placed under the Rigour of the *LAW*, *transgress and die*, without any Hope of Pardon. For the *Law works Wrath*, Rom. iv. 15. *is the Ministration of Death and Condemnation*, 2 Cor. iii. 7, 9. *by the Works of which no Flesh living shall be justified*, and under which *Adam* lost all, the Law subjecting him to *Death* upon the first Transgression. He therefore was under a very dreadful Dispensation, which, had it not been relaxed, the World could never have stood. But his Posterity have been, and still are, under the mild Dispensation of GRACE, which makes Allowance for our Infirmities, provides Succour under Temptations, vouchsafes the Benefit of Repentance, and promises the Remission of Sin. The *LAW* indeed was brought in among the *Jews*, a small Part of Mankind, not as the principal and final Dispensation, (for they were also under *Grace*, as appears from the many Calls to Repentance and Promises of Pardon made to them,) but only as subservient to *Grace*, to lead them to *CHRIST*. But all the rest of the World, from the Time God promised the Seed of the Woman should bruise the Serpent's Head, to this Day have been, and to the End of the World shall be under *Grace*; and consequently

Our Situation much happier than Adam's 93
quently are, as to the Favour of God, and eternal Salvation, in a much more favourable Situation than *Adam* was, while under the Rigour of *Law* *.

S E C T.

* *Observe*, God, who had in his Counsels before the World was created, laid the whole Scheme of the several Dispensations he intended therein to erect, (*Acts* xv. 18. *Eph.* i. 4. 1 *Pet.* i. 20.) thought fit to introduce those Dispensations by placing the first Man under mere *LAW*, *obey and live, transgress and die*; not as designing it for the final Dispensation by which all Mankind were to stand or fall in reference to their spiritual and eternal State; the Event proves the contrary: But only as an Introduction to the general Dispensation of *GRACE*, and all its Subdivisions, which in his Foreknowledge and Wisdom he had before purposed should follow in due Order and Time. And the Dispensation of *Law*, I humbly conceive, was judged the most proper Introduction to all the rest, (which were to fall under the general Dispensation of *Grace*;) not only as it is the most simple and natural, but also with respect to Discipline and Instruction, (as the like Dispensation of *LAW* was on the same Account afterwards brought in among the *Jews*) namely, to shew following Generations the true Demerit of Sin, the Value and Necessity of Divine *Grace*, and to lay a proper Ground for the future Disposal of it.

I may here add, that, for the same Reason, the Threatening of Death in the Law given to *Adam* did not put the Existence of Mankind either in this, or in another World, in a doubtful State. For in Case of Transgression, God no more intended to put the Threatening in Execution according to the rigorous Sense of the Law, than he intended to execute the Curse of the Law upon all the *Jews*. No; in both Cases *GRACE* was fore-ordained and prepared. Nor is the subjecting Mankind to Death in Consequence of the *first Man's DISOBEDIENCE*, and the restoring them again
to

S E C T. VI.

The Notion of Adam's being a federal Head and Representative of Mankind considered.

THE Argument taken from what God has expressly signified concerning the State of Mankind at the *Restoration* of the World, may seem to make it needless to proceed any further upon this Subject: But the
Notion

to Life at the Resurrection on Account of the *O B E D I E N C E* of the *second Man, the Lord from Heaven*, at all inconsistent with any Evidence in Natural Religion relating to a future World, or the Immortality of the Soul; but explains and confirms that Evidence. For those Articles in Revealed Religion are to be considered as *Dispensations* or *Constitutions*. According to which God executes his original Purpose, with regard to our Existence in a future World, in such a Manner as to manifest the Glory of his Wisdom and Goodness, and to promote the Virtue and Happiness of his Creatures. Which seems to me the noblest Exercise of the Divine Perfections, with regard to the Work of his Hands. The Principles of Natural Religion point out a future State, but Revelation shews the noble Schemes and Methods by which infinite Wisdom has thought fit to open that State to Mankind. As I may say, Natural Religion shews that the King intends to take me to Court; Revelation discovers, that for wise Reasons, and in a Way proper to form my Temper and Behaviour agreeably to the Dignity I am to enjoy, he has appointed and empowered his Son, the Prince, to take care that I be brought thither, and settled there.

Notion of *Adam's* being a *federal Head*, *Surety* and *Representative* of all Mankind having so long prevailed, and being not only by R. R. but also by many other Divines made the Ground of *Original Sin*, it demands our Attention ; and the Examination of it may afford us a clearer View of some Particulars relating to the Divine Dispensations, especially as R. R. has given us a large Account of it. His Sentiment is this, That *some original Person* [Adam] *stood before God as a common federal Head and Representative of Mankind, upon Condition of bringing Happiness or Misery on all the Race according as he behaved well or ill, and through his Disobedience, Sin and Misery came upon all whose Head he was, and whom he represented ; i. e. upon all Mankind.* P. 81. Hence he infers, *Sin is some way imputed to us by our Interest in and Communion with this federal Head, Surety and Representative, who has actually sinned.* P. 85. But he confesses ingenuously, and like a Man of Probity, that he is not fond of such a Scheme or Hypothesis of deriving some Sort of Guilt from a Surety or Representative, tho' it has been embraced by a considerable Party of Christians both ancient and modern. No ; he would gladly renounce it, because of some great Difficulties attending it, if he could find any other Way to relieve the much greater Difficulties and harder Imputations upon the Conduct of Divine Providence, if we follow any other Track of Sentiments, P. 88. To this Principle

Principle he joins another, namely, *that one original Parent [Adam] sinned against his Maker, and sustained the Miseries consequent upon it in his own Person first; and when he became a Father he spread a sinful and miserable Nature through all his Race and Offspring by mere natural Propagation.* Pag. 81. This Scheme he dislikes even more than the other, and thinks, indeed very justly, that *the Justice and Goodness of God cannot be vindicated in making and maintaining such a dreadful Law or Order of Propagation through 6000 Years,* p. 87. in the Note. And he *confesseth* (p. 115.) that it is his present Opinion, that *the mere Doctrine of the animal Propagation of Man, according to the natural Law of Creation, is not a sufficient Relief to the Difficulty which strikes upon his Thoughts, without supposing the first Father of Mankind to be a common federal Head and Representative of his Posterity, as well as the natural Spring and Fountain of them. But these two Suppositions put together (I think, says he) absolve and clear the Conduct of Providence and the Divine Government from all Imputations of Injustice.* See also p. 163. l. 30.

HENCE it appears that the Scheme of a *federal Head or Representative*, by our Relation to whom his Sin is imputed to us, is the grand Pillar upon which R. R. rests the whole of the Doctrine of *Original Sin*, and consequently

quently of *Redemption*. And he explains it in this Manner : That Adam not only had a Law given him with a Penalty threatened for the Breach of it, but also a Covenant made with him, and a Promise given to him, not only of continuing in his present Happiness, but of his being immutably confirmed and established in Immortality, p. 98. That this Covenant is justly supposed to reach to his Posterity, and include his Offspring as well as himself in this Manner, (viz.) If Man continued in his State of Obedience, and thereby confirmed or advanced himself in the Image and Favour of his Maker, and secured immortal Life to himself by his Obedience during the appointed Time of his Trial, he should also propagate his Offspring, perhaps in that established or advanced Degree of the Divine Image and Favour, or at least in the Security of immortal Life and Happiness to them : But if Man should bring a sinful Taint and vicious Disorder upon his Nature, and Diseases and Death upon his animal Body, by tasting some forbidden Pleasure, and sinning against God, that he should not only lose this Image and Favour of God himself, with all his Privileges, but that he should beget his Offspring in his own sinful Likeness, and in his own unhappy Circumstances, despoiled of the Image and Favour of God, and of the Privileges which their Father enjoyed during his Innocency, pag. 102.

THIS Scheme thus formed and explained R. R. endeavours to shew, is not only not unjust, but an *Instance of Goodness to Mankind*, considering the strong Obligations *Adam* must be under to be obedient, in order to secure and preserve the *Happiness of those Multitudes*, which should spring from him, as well as his own, and which would be involved in his Misery, in Case he disobeyed. No single Person standing the Test of Obedience to obtain his own single Happiness can be supposed to have an equal Motive to Diligence, and Watchfulness, and Duty, with that Man who was intrusted both with his own Welfare, and with the Welfare of Millions, dear to him as his Children, and whose Peace or Pain, Life or Death would naturally awaken all his Watchfulness beyond the mere Care of his single Self. P. 103, 116, 117. Which he backs with several Considerations ; as, 1. That Happiness might have been secured to Mankind by this Constitution as well as forfeited and lost. If there was on one Side so great a Risk as the Innocence, Welfare and Happiness of Mankind entrusted with one Person, so that Sin and Misery would be brought upon Millions if he sinned and lost the Image of God and his Favour, there was as great an Advantage allowed on the other Side to all Mankind, even the everlasting Security of their Innocence, Welfare and Happiness, if this one Person continued in his Obedience, &c. P. 115.

2. He

2. He alledges several Instances taken from among Men, and from Scripture, p. 116—124. in which, he says, Children have been *punished* for the Faults, or *rewarded* for the Virtue of Parents; and *Representatives* and *Plenepotentaries*, appointed by civil Societies, have, by their good or ill Conduct, very much hurt or benefited the whole Community.

3. *Tho' all Mankind were not actually present to consent that their Father should be their Representative, yet the Appointment is so just and equitable in the Governour of the World, and also there is so much Goodness in it, considering that they were to have enjoyed Immortality and Happiness if he had kept his Innocence, that none of the Race of Adam could reasonably have refused this Proposal.—And if we suppose all his Posterity to have been endowed with the clear Reason and Wisdom, the Sagacity and solid Judgment, of innocent Man, and to have had this Question proposed to them, whether they would each act for themselves in a dangerous State of Trial, or have their common Father appointed as a Representative to act for them; surely they must have chosen their common Father to have been their Representative: for their Reason and Wisdom would have assured them that their Innocence and Happiness were safer in his Hands than in their own, inasmuch as the Obligations that lay on him to secure it both for himself and for them were much stronger*

100 R. R's Scheme not founded on Scripture.

than could lie on every single Person acting only for himself. P. 123, 124.

HAVING thus settled his Scheme, and considered some Difficulties relating to the Propagation of the Soul, which he supposes lie in the Way of it, (but which are nothing to our or any other Purpose) he then, lastly, turns to the Scripture, and *thinks* that in a FEW Pages he has made it appear, that the holy Scripture both in the Old and New Testament, and the Jewish Church in the intermediate Time, SEEM to give us the same Sentiments of the Conveyance of Sin, Misery and Death from the first Man Adam to all his Offspring, and ENCOURAGE us to receive, as Divine Truth, that same Doctrine of Original Sin, which Human Reason approves as most probable. P. 161.

THUS R. R. explains and endeavours to establish this Scheme. But would he be so good as to review this Part of his Work, I flatter myself he would see that he has handled the Scriptures too superficially, and not with that Care and Attention which is due to their Dignity and Authority ; and upon a more close Inspection, I am satisfied, the greatest Part, if not all of the Texts would stand before his Thoughts in a quite different Light. However, I am pretty sure his taking the Sense of the Jewish Church, in the Times between
the

the Old and New Testament, from a Book so futile and fabulous as the Second of *Esdra*s in the *Apocrypha*, will not have his final Approbation. Much less that bare-faced Insult upon the Wisdom of God, 2 *Esdra*s vii. 46. *It had been better not to have given the Earth to Adam, or else when it was given him to have restrained him from sinning, &c.* Nor can I think that Paragraph, p. 80. where he settles the Method of forming his Scheme, will stand the Test of a severer Thought. *To find an Answer to this Question [How came Sin and Misery to overspread Mankind?] we shall not immediately run into Revelation and Scripture; tho' doubtless we have the most certain and satisfactory Account of it given us there: Yet since what the Scripture says of this Matter is so short, and is to be derived chiefly from the third Chapter of Genesis, and the fifth Chapter to the Romans, and from some few other general Hints that are scattered up and down in the Bible, let us try whether we cannot by a Train of REASONINGS, with a little Help from Scripture, find out some Clew that will lead us into the Spring and Original of this sinful and miserable State: And afterward we will inquire whether or no this very Clew of Reasoning, this Track of Guilt and Misery, be not the same which Scripture more directly points out to us, and strongly confirms by all its sacred and divine Discoveries on this Subject.*—But are we sure we have the right Clew,

and follow a *Track* which leads to Truth? In the preceding Paragraph *R. R.* tells us, '*tis not a very easy Thing to find a satisfactory Answer to the proposed Enquiry; that it was a vexing Question among the Schools of the Philosophers, [Men who professed the Art of Reasoning] whence Evil came amongst Mankind? And none of them, tho' they had many Guesses and loose Conjectures, could give an Account of this Matter to satisfy the Minds of studious Men.*—And may not our *Guesses and Conjectures* fail as well as theirs? *If the Difficulties and Darknesses which attend this—Question—are so many and great; (P. 136.) and if doubtless we have the most certain and satisfactory Account of this Affair given in Scripture; if the Scripture points it out more directly than Reasoning, and strongly confirms it, why should we not immediately take the Account from Scripture? Why rather disparage the Scripture-Account, as so short, and to be derived from a Place or two, and some few other scattered general Hints, when at the same time we say it is certain and satisfactory? And having Certainty already, why must we first try and puzzle ourselves and the Subject with what is doubtful? Why a Candle before the Noon-day Sun? Is it the surest Way of coming at the Truth to set aside a certain and direct Rule, in order to try first what we can do with one which is known to be not adequate to the Case, and which is confessed to have failed the*
ablest

ablest Masters? Or, is not this the most probable Way of obscuring and weakning the Evidence of the *certain* and *direct* Rule, by first drawing over it the Darkneſs of one *doubtful* and *fallacious*? Do we not all know that learned Men first introduced corrupt Notions, Strife, and all Confuſion into the Chriſtian World, by beginning at their own Heads and Imaginations, every Man ſtriking out his own Scheme, and then preſſing the Scripture into its Service? Thus the Scriptures have been rendered unintelligible and in effect exploded; and thus Men from one Step to another have been *encouraged* to advance Sentiments relating to Revelation, which they know are not ſupported by it. And I am concerned to find R. R. advance ſo near to this very dangerous Step in that Paragraph which introduces his *ſhort* Examination of Scripture, p. 136. *Queſt.*—Doth the Word of God, which is our trueſt and ſafeſt Guide,—ſupport this Scheme? *Anſ.* 1. *The Difficulties and Darkneſſes which attend this important Queſtion, How came Sin and Miſery into the World? are ſo many and great, that if, by reaſoning on theſe Subjects, we can but find any Hypotheſis, or ſuppoſed Scheme of Tranſactions between God and Man, which will give us a tolerable Solution of thoſe Difficulties, and lead us through this dark Scene of Providence, without any juſt Imputation or Reflection upon the Wiſdom, Juſtice and Goodneſs of our Crea-*

tor; it ought to have considerable Weight with every reasoning and enquiring Mind, if it be not contrary to Scripture, tho' it should not be asserted and expressly maintained in Scripture.—

This Paragraph relates to the establishing a Fundamental Point of *Revealed Religion*: And I can hardly think R. R. will be willing it should stand to future Ages as a Rule, or as *his* Rule for settling Christian Doctrine and Faith; since it resolves both into *human Reasoning*, opens a wide Door to Fiction and Imagination, and will serve to justify the wildest Notions a weak and fallible Man may conceit not inconsistent with Scripture and the Perfections of God. Nor can I conclude from this Paragrah, or the two following Pages, that R. R. was thoroughly persuaded his Scheme is well-grounded in Scripture, seeing he again lays so much Stress upon our own *Conjectures, Suppositions and Reasonings*, immediately before he approaches the sacred Oracles. P. 138. 9. *It ought to be reckoned a great Happiness, if we can but by way of Conjecture and humble Reasoning, find a probable Method whereby those Difficulties may be relieved, &c.* And he concludes—that the holy Scriptures—SEEM to give us the same Sentiments, &c.

INDEED he has Reason to be diffident of his Scheme. For such Objections both from Reason and Scripture lie against it, that I am
 persuaded

Objections against R. R's Scheme of, &c. 105
persuaded he has deviated not only from
Scripture, but from the right Track of Rea-
soning too. For,

I. WHEREAS he grounds *Original Sin*,
and consequently the *Redemption* of the World,
upon the Imputation of *Adam's Sin*, and that
Imputation upon his being constituted the *federal Head, Surety* and *Representative* of all Man-
kind, I cannot find in all the Scripture, that
one Man's Sin is ever said to be imputed to
another, or, in particular, that *Adam's Sin* is
ever said to be *imputed* to his Posterity. But,
were this a fundamental Principle of our Re-
ligion, I cannot think the Scripture, which
frequently speaks of *reckoning, imputing, and*
accounting of Sin in other and much inferior
Cases, would have been *wholly* silent in this.
Nor can I find in Scripture any Assertion,
Principle or Position, which will justify us
in saying, *Adam* was, in *any* Sense, the *federal Head, Surety* or *Representative* of Man-
kind. But surely had this too been a *fundamental Doctrine*, or even a *Doctrine* of *Christianity*, it would have been affirmed directly,
clearly, and positively, and we should not
have been left to grope for it in the Darkness
of Conjecture and Supposition, which any
Man may make at Pleasure, and every Man
is at liberty to reject. *R. R.* thinks *Adam's*
being a *federal Head*, and our *deriving a sin-ful Nature* from him, may be collected from
Rom.

Rom. v. 12—20. But I am satisfied he has carried the Apostle's Words quite beyond their proper Force, and his true Design. See *Scrip. Doc.* p. 25—63. To what I have there said, I here add, that throughout the whole Paragraph the Apostle saith nothing of any federal Relations or Transactions, either on the Part of *Adam* or *Christ*, nor of our deriving a sinful Nature from *Adam*. He affirms, that the Judgment came upon all Men to Condemnation: but he gives no Reason why, besides what is necessarily implied, *viz.* the *Will of the Judge*; and he refers it to nothing but the *Offence, Transgression, or entering of Sin into the World*. But of the preceding Covenant, Law or Constitution he says not a Word: Nor is a Reference to it necessarily imply'd in the *Judgment, or Sentence, Gen. iii. 16—19.* For that Judgment contains four Particulars; three of which have no Relation at all to the Law or Constitution, *Gen. ii. 17.* For the Law was not, *If thou eatest, thy Wife shall bring forth in Sorrow*; or, *the Ground shall be cursed*; or, *thou shalt get a Livelibood by Toil*: but, *thou shalt die*. Three of those Particulars, tho' they were, as well as Death, inflicted through, or in Consequence of the one *Offence*, can have respect only to the Will and Wisdom of the Judge, and to the Transgression or entering of Sin into the World, by way of Dispensation. Consequently, *Death*, in the *Judgment or Sentence* may possibly stand

stand under some Circumstances different from what it is in the Threatening of the Law. But if not, it would denounce only the Loss of Life, but not the Conveyance of a sinful Nature. Nor doth the Apostle in *Rom. v. 12 — 20.* mention or intimate the Conveyance of a sinful Nature, or *any* Consequence of *Adam's* Offence, in which all Mankind are concern'd, besides that Death which all Men die when they leave this World; as I have prov'd, *Scrip. Doc. P. 27.—30.*

II. THE Instances he brings fall very short of the Case: For in none of them is there any Mention or the least Intimation of a *federal Head*; nor do they prove, however Posterity might suffer by the Offences of Ancestors, that a corrupt and sinful Nature was thereby convey'd to them; which is the grand Point to be prov'd. *Diseases, Poverty, Disgrace* may be entail'd upon Families; but these are not *Sin*. He tells us indeed, p. 112. that *we find a proud, a passionate, a false, a malicious Temper, a lewd or sottish Inclination transmitted from Parents to Children; so that the Features of their Faces are not so much copy'd out in their Offspring as the Vices of their Nature. And in some Houses from Age to Age there is a Race of Drunkards and Adulterers, of Cheats or Thieves, of cruel, proud and malicious Wretches continued in the World.*

—This,

— This, were it prov'd, is home to the Point: But here, as in several other Places, *R. R.* may observe, he begs the Question, and takes the Conveyance of a sinful Nature from *Adam* to his Posterity, and from Parents to Children for granted, when 'tis neither allow'd, nor prov'd. Further; according to his *Covenant and Constitution*, and *Law of Creation*, *Adam* was to produce all his Race in the same degenerate and sinful State whereinto he had plunged himself. P. 109. Consequently, all Children should have the same Tempers, and all *Houses* should be just such Sinners as *Adam* was. For according to the Covenant, the Vices of *his* Nature were to be convey'd to us, and not the Vices of our immediate Parents. But, seeing different Children have different Tempers, and different *Houses* live in different *Vices*, I conclude this proceeds not from the Cause which *R. R.* has assigned. A plain and obvious Reason may be given, why this or the other Vice may be continued from Age to Age in Families, without having Recourse to the Propagation of a sinful Nature. For in some Families Piety and Virtue are continued from one Age to another; and is that from the Conveyance of a holy Nature by Propagation, or by good Instructions, Discipline and Examples?

III. A *Representative* of moral Action is what I can by no means digest. A Representative

sentative the Guilt of whose Conduct shall be imputed to us, and whose Sins shall corrupt and debauch our Nature, is one of the greatest Absurdities in all the System of *corrupt Religion*. That the Conduct of Ancestors should affect the *external* Circumstances of Posterity, is a Constitution just and wise, and may answer good Purposes; and that *Representatives* of civil Societies, or any other Persons intrusted with the Management of Affairs, may injure those who employ 'em, is agreeable to a State of Trial and Imperfection: But that any Man, without my Knowledge or Consent, should so represent me, that when he is guilty I am to be reputed guilty, and when he transgresses I shall be accountable and punishable for his Transgression, and thereby subjected to the Wrath and Curse of God; nay further, that his Wickedness shall give me a *sinful Nature*, and all this before I am born, and consequently while I am in no Capacity of knowing, helping or hindering what he doth; surely any one, who *dares* use his Understanding, must clearly see this is unreasonable, and altogether inconsistent with the Truth and Goodness of God. We may call it a *righteous Constitution*, (P. 89. l. 18.) but in the Nature of Things 'tis absolutely *impossible* we should *prove* it to be so. Further,

IV. HE supposes the *Innocence, Welfare and Happiness*

*Happiness of all Mankind was so intrusted with Adam, that we do not each of us act for our selves in a — State of Trial, but that our common Father was appointed a Representative to act for us. P. 124. And that if he had fulfilled the required Obedience, it would have appear'd as a Hardship upon us to have each of us a single State of Trial imposed upon us too, which might have expos'd us to Temptation, Guilt and Misery. P. 116. — He supposes we are none of us upon Trial, but that Adam alone was upon Trial for us all; and that the State of his Posterity would have been confirm'd and establish'd in Holiness, and they would have been born and have lived like Angels in Innocence and Happiness, had he been obedient, p. 57, 102. but whereas he prov'd disobedient, his Posterity are in Fact stript of all, the Favour and Image of God, of Holiness and Happiness, and are under the Curse of God and all Wretchedness. One Man was to stand or fall for *all* the rest, and all the rest of Mankind were to be holy or sinful, happy or miserable according as he behav'd. But then what Place will there be for a future Judgment, wherein the Actions of all Men will be examin'd, and either rewarded or punish'd, if the Sinfulness and Misery of all Mankind be already determined by the Conduct of the first Man? We must enlarge our View, and take in the whole Plan and Compass of Revelation. The future Judgment*

ment will give us a true Idea of the present State of Things. For as the State of Things now is, so will the awful Process of the great Day be. But the Scriptures frequently and clearly assure us that God will judge not *Adam* only, but *all the World* in Righteousness. *All Nations shall be gathered before Christ*, Mat. xxv. 32. and he *will render to EVERY MAN according to HIS Works, the Deeds done in the Body*; to them who have continued patient in well-doing, eternal Life; to them that have not obey'd the Truth, Tribulation and Wrath; *Rom. ii. 6, &c.* So then EVERY ONE OF US shall give an account of HIMSELF to God, *Rom. xiv. 12.* The Servant who has received one Talent must give an account of his improvement or abuse of it, and the Servant who has received two, and he who has received five, *Matt. xxv. 20—31.* This is Demonstration, that *Adam* was no *Representative* of moral Action to us; that we are all upon Trial as well as he; and that our Happiness or Misery is determined not by *his* Conduct but *our own*. This also shews the Judgment which came upon all Men in Consequence of *Adam's* Transgression, doth not stand in Relation to the final or everlasting State of Mankind; (for then a future Judgment, in which every Person's everlasting Condition will be determined according to his present Behaviour, would be excluded) but to the State and Dispensation of Religion in *this* World.

V. THAT

V. THAT the State of *Adam's* Trial was equally favourable and advantageous to the Happiness and Holiness of his Posterity, as *R. R.* has represented it, doth not seem clear to me: Because *Adam* was under the Rigour of the LAW, *transgress and die*. Now in this State, only a Course, and perhaps a long Course of Obedience would, upon *R. R's* Supposition, secure the Holiness and Felicity of his Posterity; whereas one *single* Act of Disobedience would ruin and lose all. And for my own Part I may say, (upon Supposition *R. R's* Question had been propos'd to me) I should not have chose, that my Virtue and Happiness should have been intrusted either in my own Hands, or any other Person's upon a Foot so extremely dangerous. And the Event makes it undeniably evident, that a gracious God did not originally intend our *all* should ultimately be set upon this dangerous Foot. No; as he had afore determined in his own Breast, so he immediately established his Covenant upon a quite different Bottom, *viz.* upon GRACE. And certainly the Constitution of *Grace*, where there is room for Pardon and Repentance, and the Promise of Succour under Temptation, has a more favourable Aspect upon Virtue and Happiness than the Rigour of *Law*, which is a Stranger to all the Encouragements of Mercy, and under which *Adam*, for

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ought

ought that appears, was no more able to stand than any of his Posterity.—The Chance would indeed have been more equal, if, as one single Act of Disobedience was to lose all, so one single Act of Obedience should have secur'd all: Or, if what was lost by the *Disobedience of one* Person might afterwards be recovered by the *Obedience* of another, then Things would have stood upon an equal footing; which latter Supposition, if *R. R.* is pleased to peruse carefully what I have offer'd in my Book upon *Rom. v. 12—19*. I am apt to think he will find is the Truth. For *all* that was lost to us by *Adam's* DISOBEDIENCE, *viz.* natural Life, is there said to be freely and fully recover'd to all Mankind by *Christ's* OBEDIENCE, however we state or denominate the Relation in which the one or the other stands to us.

VI. THE Covenant or Constitution in Relation to which alone *Adam* can be suppos'd to be a *federal Head* or *Representative* to us, is abrogated. That Covenant was the Covenant of Works, the same in Nature with the *Sinai-Covenant*, called by the Apostle LAW, or *the Law*; the Language of which is, *Do, and live: Transgress, and die*. Under this Covenant *Adam* was when he sinned: But it was dissannul'd immediately after that. For even before God pass'd Sentence upon

I.

Adam

Adam and Eve, GRACE was introduced by that Promise, Gen. iii. 15. *I will put Enmity between thee and the Woman, and between thy Seed and her Seed: It shall bruise thy Head, and thou shalt bruise his Heel.* From *Adam to Moses* the Law was not in Being, Rom. v. 13, 14. — Sin is not imputed when there is no Law. Those Words ΜΗ ΟΝΤΟΣ ΝΟΜΟΥ, when there is no Law, should have been translated, when Law is not in being. R. R. turns this another way. For he says p. 155, 156. the Apostle's meaning is, *That Sin is never imputed where there is no Law or Constitution of Duty and Penalty at all.* Yet, Death reigned from *Adam to Moses*, i. e. Sin was imputed and punished by Death, even upon all Mankind, both great and small, before *Moses's Law*: And the Inference is, therefore there was some Law or Constitution from *Adam to Moses*, by and according to which Sin as imputed to Mankind; and Death was executed upon them according to that Law. Now what Law could that be, besides the Law——which said to Adam as a Representative and Surety for all his Posterity, in the Day thou sinnest thou shalt die.—This, I think, is a great Mistake. For, observe, by LAW the Apostle here, as in several other Places, doth not mean only a Rule of Duty, but such a Rule with the Penalty of Death threatned to every Transgression of it. Such was the Covenant at *Sinai*, or the Law given by *Moses*:
Cursed

was originally, is abrogated. 115

Cursed is every one that continues not in all Things written in the Law to do them. And such was the Covenant under which *Adam* originally was, *In the Day thou eatest thou shalt surely die.* Further ; when the Apostle says, *For until the Law Sin was in the World,* he means the *Sin*, which actually had a Being in the World, *viz.* the Sins which those Persons committed who lived in the Times before the Law given by *Moses* ; the Sins of those Persons, who when they sinned, did not sin after the Similitude, or Likeness of *Adam's* Transgression. [The Sin of Infants never was in the World, neither did they ever sin after the Similitude of any Man's Transgression who never sinned at all.] And when he says, *but Sin is not imputed when there is no Law,* or, *when LAW is not in being,* he means, the Sins which those Persons committed were not imputed to them so as to subject them to Death, because LAW, which subjects the Transgressor to Death, was not then in Being. Take good Notice ; according to the Apostle, and the true Nature of Things, 'tis only LAW which slays the Sinner : for, did not the Law or Constitution of the Lawgiver condemn him unto Death, he might, notwithstanding his Sin, live for ever ; for he might from time to time be pardoned. 'Tis LAW which slays the Sinner : 1 Cor. xv. 56. *The Sting, or Spear, of Death is Sin, and the Strength, or Force, of*
I 2 *Sin*

Sin is the Law. DEATH is here represented as armed with a terrible Sting. That Sting is SIN, which *Death* would have no *Power* to thrust into the Sinner's Heart were it not for the LAW. The *Law* is the Force by which the Sting is plunged into the Sinner's Vitals. For, Rom. vii. 8. *without the Law Sin*, the Sting of Death, is itself *dead*, and quite unable to slay the Sinner. Hence that *Jew* (ver. 9.) *was alive without the Law once*, namely, before the giving of the Law at Mount *Sinai*. The *Jew* was then *alive*; that is, because he was not then under LAW, he was not slain by his Sin. His Sin was not so imputed to him as to subject him to Death; but he was, with the rest of Mankind, in a State of GRACE and Pardon: *But when the Commandment came*, with the Penalty of DEATH annexed to it, *then Sin*, the Sting of Death, *revived*, then it acquired full Life and Vigour, *and the Jew died*; i. e. was a dead Man in Law upon the first Transgression he committed: Tho' he had the Relief of the Gospel as well as the rest of Mankind to heal the deadly Wound. But to return: *Sin is not imputed when the LAW is not in being.* He means, That the Sins which were committed before the Law of *Moses*, were not imputed to the Sinners, so as to subject them to *Death*, because the *Law*, which subjects the Transgressor to Death, was not then in Being. *Nevertheless*

Death

Death reigned, or they all died, from Adam, [i. e. from the Time of the Legal Dispensation under which Adam originally was,] unto Moses, [or the legal Dispensation revived by his Ministry] even over them that had not sinned after the Similitude of Adam's Transgression. They had not sinned after the Similitude of Adam's Transgression, because they were not under the Law, or Covenant of Works, as he was: For the Law all that Space of Time was not in Being; and therefore they could not sin after the Similitude of Adam's Transgression. This is the Apostle's Argument, very strong and clear, to prove that Mankind are made subject to Death, not through their own Offences, but through the Offence of one Man, viz. Adam; consequently, 'tis very evident he doth not mean, that Sin, the Sin that then actually was in the World, (for he manifestly speaks of the Sin that was in the World from Adam to Moses) was imputed and punished with Death upon all Mankind, before Moses's Law. Nor can he mean, that there was some Law or Constitution from Adam to Moses, by and according to which Sin was imputed to Mankind; and Death was executed upon them according to that Law. Because were this his meaning, then the Sin that was in the World before the Law of Moses would have been imputed to Death, according to the Law, which R. R. supposes did exist during that Time;

and so it would have been true, that Mankind died for their *own* Transgressions, being under a Law or Constitution which imputed their Transgressions to them in the same Manner as the Law under which *Adam* was; and thus they would have sinned after the Similitude of *Adam's* Transgression; and thus the Apostle's Argument, that Death passed upon all Men thro' *one* Man's Offence, would fall to the Ground. His Argument plainly stands upon this Foot, that the Law, or Covenant of Works, in all the Space of Time from *Adam* to *Moses* was not in Being. During that Period *there was no Law or Constitution by and according to which Sin was imputed to Mankind, and Death executed upon them.* From *Moses* to *Christ* the *Jews* indeed were under the Law. But the rest of Mankind, tho' they always had a Rule of Action, yet *never* were under the *Law* in the peculiar Sense above explained. And certain it is that *now* we are not under the *Law* but under *Grace*, Rom. vi. 14. Nor will the *Law* be in Force, to give Sin its deadly, destructive Power till the *great and terrible Day of the Lord*, when those who have impenitently lived after the *Flesh* *shall DIE.* Rom. viii. 13. Now if the Covenant of Works, under which *Adam* was, is not *now* in Being, he cannot be a federal, or Covenant-Head to us by virtue of a *Fædus*, or Covenant which has no Existence. Suppose he was a federal

Head

Head (which yet the Scripture no where affirms) before his Transgression, while LAW, or the Covenant of Works subsisted, and suppose that God did inflict Death upon us in Consequence of his transgressing that Covenant; yet cannot he *now* be a federal, or Covenant-Head to us by virtue of a Covenant which *now* has no Existence, and in the Place whereof another Covenant of a quite different Nature is substituted, whereby we are placed under a different and opposite federal Head.

HENCE I further conclude; that altho' Death in the Sentence had respect to the Transgression of the original Law or Covenant, yet now it stands under the *Covenant of Grace*, and partakes of a quite different Nature from what it is with Relation to the *Covenant of Works*. In Relation to that, it is Death without Hopes of a Resurrection, Death arm'd with a powerful Sting: but *now* 'tis *Death abolished*, Death spoil'd of its Sting, 1 Cor. xv. 55. and Faith triumphs over it, O *Death, where is thy Sting?* for a Resurrection and Immortality to follow are brought to Light by the Gospel. And now all Things are ours, *whether the World, or Life, or DEATH, or things present, or things to come, all are ours*, 1 Cor. iii. 22. Blessed be God for all the Schemes of his Wisdom, and the unspeakable Riches of his Grace! And in the

Council and Appointment of God Death stood in this very Light even before Sentence was pronounc'd upon *Adam*. Consequently *Death now is no proper and legal Punishment of Sin*, as *R. R.* affirms, p. 157. For *Death* abolish'd, or to be follow'd with a Restoration to Life, is no more a proper, *legal* Punishment, than *Life* abolish'd, or to be follow'd with eternal Death, is a proper *Gospel* Promise, or Reward. *Rom. vi. 23, The Wages of Sin is Death*, is urg'd as a Proof that the Death we *now* die is a Punishment of Sin, consequently that there must be some Sin in Infants, who die as well as others. But Death in *Rom. vi. 23.* is of a Nature widely different from the Death we now die. For as it stands there oppos'd to *eternal Life*, which is the *Gift of God thro' Jesus Christ*, it manifestly signifies *eternal Death*, the *Second Death*, or that Death which they shall hereafter die who live after the Flesh, *Rom. viii. 13.*—Death, ever since it was inflicted, has stood under the Dispensation of Grace; (which Dispensation was advanc'd, and the Law abolish'd, even before the Sentence of Death was pronounc'd upon *Adam*) and therefore cannot be, in any Respect, inconsistent with that Dispensation, or the Blessing and highest Favour of God.

VII. THIS Scheme of a federal Head reflects so much Dishonour upon our Blessed
 LORD,

LORD, that on that Account also, as a *Christian*, I can by no means come into it. For 'tis suppos'd, that if *Adam* had perform'd the Obedience required of him, then by that his Obedience all Mankind without Exception, and without more to do, would have had Holiness and immortal Life and Happiness *absolutely* secured to them. But this is a *far greater* Effect than is allow'd or assign'd to the Obedience of our Blessed LORD himself. For through his Righteousness and Obedience not all Mankind *by far* shall be *finally* and *for ever* saved. And those that are saved by it must generally go thro' a State of Trial as long as God pleases, and overcome various Temptations, before they can obtain the immortal Life and Happiness which is founded upon it. Consequently the Virtue, Value and Merit of our LORD's Obedience must, upon this Scheme, be *vastly* inferior to that of *Adam*; and the *Second Man*, the LORD from Heaven, must be a very weak and imperfect Saviour in comparison of the *First Man*, who was of the Earth earthy. Upon this Supposition, *Adam* must be the much greater and more important Man of the two; must have vastly more Grace lodged in his Hands under the LAW, and be of greater Consequence to Mankind, than the ever-blessed SON OF GOD under the GOSPEL.

VIII. WHEREAS R. R. tells us, p. 105. that *God, who had made himself and his Goodness known to his innocent Creature, and conversed with him in a friendly Manner, forsook his disobedient Creature, and departed from him, and gave him none of those kind Visits or Comforts, which he might enjoy before, nor had he Encouragement to hope for any Assistances in Case of any future Dangers or Temptations. That (p. 109.) Mankind after Adam's Sin were born — without the Divine Favour, — cast out of his Covenant of Love, expos'd to Temptations — without any Claim or just Pretence to Divine Aid or Protection. That (p. 147, 148.) after he had broken the Law of his Maker, he lost his Image and Favour — was forsaken of God, and had not any peculiar Aids from Heaven to resist Temptation. — That he produc'd his Offspring like himself — destitute of the Favour of God, or in a State of disfavour with their Maker. — One may answer this by only holding up the Bible, and asking, If it be true that God forsook *Adam* and his Posterity, departed from them, and cast them out of his Covenant of Love, how come we to have a Book among us, which contains the Revelation and History of God's Good-will towards Men from the Beginning of the World to the Coming of his Son our LORD *Jesus Christ* to be the Propitiation for the Sins of the whole World? Or one may ask, If all Mankind are *born without the Divine Favour,**

*Favour, and cast out of his Covenant of Love, what is the Condition of those, who are suppos'd from all Eternity to be absolutely elected to everlasting Life when they come into the World? Can they be without God's Favour, and cast out of his Covenant of Love, and yet at the same Time be the Objects of his highest Love and Favour? or one may appeal to R. R. himself, who tells us, p. 202. Adam having sinned — God, who is rich in Mercy, gave him a Promise of a Redeemer or Saviour, Gen. iii. 15. who should be the Seed of the Woman, and should break the Head of the Serpent; i. e. destroy the Works of the Devil, and deliver Men from that Mischief and Misery into which Sin had plunged them.— I ask, Is this God's forsaking his disobedient Creature? Is this withdrawing his kind Visits, Comforts and Encouragements? Is promising a Redeemer and Saviour, even before he pronounc'd the Sentence, casting him and his Posterity out of the Covenant of his Love? is this leaving him expos'd to Dangers and Temptations, without Hope of any peculiar Aids from Heaven? No surely, but the very reverse. Thanks be to God, who is rich in Mercy, it is evident beyond Dispute, that he immediately caught his sinning fallen Creature in the Arms of his Grace. However he was pleas'd to alter the outward Condition of *Adam* and his Posterity, he did not in the least suspend his Love to them, or*

with-

withdraw his Blessing. For do we not find him like a tender FATHER careful to guard and cherish even his Body by providing him Clothes? *Gen. iii. 21.* Did he not by some Token manifest his kind Acceptance of the rightly qualify'd Worship of *Abel*? and did he not converse even with a *Cain* for his Reformation? And if we read on in the History we shall find him appearing and manifesting his richest Grace to Men of Virtue and Piety, and from Time to Time providing a Variety of Means to reform the wicked and ungodly? See *Script. Doc.* p. 147, 148. And as for his and his Posterity's being *exposed to Dangers and Temptations without any Encouragement to hope for any peculiar Aids from Heaven*; what peculiar Aids had *Adam*, who, for ought that appears, wanted them as much as we, to resist that Temptation, which if it prov'd too strong, would, according to *R. R.* be the Ruin of the Holiness and Happiness of all his Posterity? Surely *then* was the Time for *peculiar Aids*, when our ALL depended upon one single Action. But the Truth is, *Adam* in his innocent State was under the Rigour of LAW, which promised neither Aid against Temptation, nor Pardon when he was overcome by it; but afterwards he and his Posterity were under a much happier Dispensation which promised the one to the Upright, and the other to the Penitent. —But to what Purpose to talk of *Dangers*
and

Mankind propagated in the Image of God. 125
and *Temptations* to Creatures who are sup-
pos'd to have neither the Favour of God,
nor their own Innocence to lose? who are
under God's Wrath and Curse, and forsaken
of him before they are born? who are in a
much worse Case than the Brutes, corrupt
and sinful by *Nature*? What are Dangers
and Temptations to such Creatures?

IX. WHEREAS he also tells us, (p. 140.)
*That God originally appointed, that Adam when
innocent should produce an Offspring in his own
holy Image, or in the same Circumstances of
Holiness and Happiness in which he himself was
created: And appointed also on the other Hand,
that if he sinned—he should propagate his Kind in
his own sinful Image—*This is an Assertion of
a very high Nature, and demands the most
solid and substantial Proof. The Proof he
offers, is this: He thinks his Assertion *may*
PROBABLY be imply'd in these Words, Gen. i.
26. *And God said, Let us make Man in our
Image, and let them have Dominion over Fish
and Fowl, &c.* And God created Man, &c.
and blessed them, and said, Be fruitful and
multiply, and have Dominion over the Fish
and the Fowl, &c. i. e. *when you are multi-
plied, let your Seed maintain this Sovereignty,
this Dominion, which is a PART of my Image,
in your several succeeding Generations.* — But
we find that Adam propagated his Offspring
in this Part of God's Image, even after he
sinned

finned, *Gen. ix. 2, 3.* and therefore *R. R.* may be very sure his Assertion is not only not *probably imply'd* in the Text he quotes, but he may be very sure, from the clearest Evidence of Scripture, that it is so far false and groundless.—Another Proof is taken from *Gen. v. 1, 2, 3.*—*In the Day that God created Man, in the Likeness of God he made him. And Adam lived a hundred and thirty Years, and begat a Son in his own Likeness, after his Image.*—The Stress of this Proof lies on the Word *OWN*; which *R. R.* may know is put in by our Translators. They put in the Word *OWN*, and he takes the Liberty to put in the Word *SINFUL*; and then it stands thus: *Adam begat a Son in his own sinful Image, in opposition to the Likeness of God, ver. 1.* Thus the wildest Reveries may be proved from Scripture. But the Words in the Original are; *Adam lived a hundred and thirty Years, and begat in his Likeness, in his Image, i. e. he begat a Man like himself.* And what was his Likeness? *ver. 1. God made him in the Likeness of God.* *Adam's* Likeness was the Likeness of God; and in his Image and Likeness he begat his Children.—But *Adam* had lost that Image.—*R. R.* may be fully satisfy'd the Scripture *never affirms any such thing.* On the contrary, we find that *Adam's* Posterity were, and should to the End of the World be propagated *in the Image of God* (*Gen. ix. 6.* confirm'd *Jam. iii. 9.*) without the least
Inti-

Intimation that it is there to be understood in any partial, limited Sense.

THUS I have proved, that the whole of *R. R's* Scheme from p. 79. to 161. relating to a *federal Head or Representative* of Mankind, whose Guilt is imputed to us, and the Propagation of a holy or sinful Nature from him, is without any Ground in Scripture, or the Reason of Things. And I would hope *R. R.* will be convinc'd of this, seeing he has declar'd he is *not fond* of the principal Part of his Scheme, but *would gladly renounce it, because of some great Difficulties attending it, if he could find any other way to relieve the much greater Difficulties and harder Imputations upon the Conduct of Divine Providence, &c.* I think 'tis evident he *must necessarily* take some other way of relieving those *greater Difficulties and harder Imputations upon Providence.* But what are those *Difficulties* and *Imputations*? Why those that arise from the Case of Infants. For this seems to be the chief Point that sticks with *R. R.* as appears from p. 84, 86, 88, 89, 110—113. He thinks it a hard Imputation upon Providence, that Infants should be sent into the World with a sinful Nature, and liable to Sufferings and Death before they have any personal Guilt or Sin to deserve such Treatment; and therefore he thinks it absolutely necessary to find out some Guilt or Sin to be imputed to them from a federal Head and
Repre-

Representative. — But as to Infants coming into the World with a sinful Nature, 'tis only *imagined* and *supposed*; but neither is, nor *can possibly* be prov'd: And therefore on this Account we have nothing to impute to Providence. And as to their Sufferings, that they may be appointed for very wise and good Purposes, without any respect to *Sin*, our Lord himself has absolutely determined in the Case of the Man born blind, *John ix. 3.* where he tells us, that he was born blind neither on account of his own Sin, nor the Sin of his Parents, nor on account of *any* Sin charged upon him, but only *that the Works of God might be made manifest in him.* The Sufferings of Infants no doubt are appointed for wise and good Purposes, if not to themselves, yet to Parents, or others: And the Lord of all Being, Time and Place can never want Power or Opportunity to compensate ten thousand fold any Sufferings, or Loss of Life they sustain here in subserviency to his wise and gracious Providence. Therefore neither in this Respect is there any Imputation at all upon Providence; much less such as may force us to invent and advance Schemes quite absurd, and contradictory to the whole of Revelation.

S E C T. VII.

Of the Formation of our Nature in the Womb.

THE Formation of our Nature in the Womb, is another Point relating to *Original Sin*, upon which R. R. has given us his Sentiments.—He considers all Mankind as *one Being or Creature*. P. 9. l. 29. *Whether Mankind is at present such a Creature as—God made HIM at first.* —17. 4. *Man is by no means such a Creature—as HE must needs be when HE came first out of HIS Maker's Hands.* —44. 22. *Mankind is now a degenerate BEING, and not such as IT was first created by that God who made IT.* And in other Places. From this Notion, that Mankind is *one Being*, the *Sin of the first Man* is considered as an *universal Degeneracy*, p. 23. l. 9. And hence other Arguments are taken, as p. 43. l. —163. 18. Hence also we are all supposed to be made by God at *first*, and all at once. P. 36. 27. *Would this have been the Case if Mankind had been just such Creatures as they came from their Maker's Hands?* —51. 9. *Can all this be continu'd to punish Creatures who continue such as God made them at first?* —62. 1. *If Mankind were such Creatures as God at first made them.* —74. 28. *The Inhabitants of*
K *this*

this World are not a Race of happy Beings, such as they were when they came first out of the Hands of their Maker. —377. 29. Mankind in their present Generations, even from their Birth, are not such Creatures as God first made them.—And in several other Places.—But now our Nature doth not come out of God's Hands. P. 27. l. 27. We are not his original and native Offspring. —28. 13, 28. Would a blessed God make a World of intelligent Creatures so ignorant, &c. can we believe he would put such wretched and polluted Workmanship out of his Hands? —42. 15. Would a wise, just, and merciful God—have formed such sensible and intellectual Creatures originally by his own Hand in such a wretched Estate? —61. 3. His infinite Goodness would not allow him to produce a whole Rank and Order of Creatures in such Circumstances of Pain, &c.—71. 24. Could he ever believe the holy—God ever put such Workmanship out of his Hands for new-made Creatures? —170. 1. Man, a rational Creature, must come out of the Hands of a God perfectly holy and good, in a State of Innocence, Virtue, Health, and Peace. —369. 1. But then whence comes this dreadful Scene,—that an intelligent Creature cannot thank God for creating him? Not from God the Creator, whose Justice and Goodness would never have suffered him to have created original Beings, as they came from his Hands, in such a Situation as this.—The Meaning of all this,

one would think, is, that when we come into the World we are not *new-made Creatures*, nor *come out of God's Hands*. For according to *R. R.* we are formed and born with innate Principles of Iniquity in us: But *God's Holiness*, he tells us, *would never permit him to create Beings with such innate and powerful Principles of Iniquity*, p. 61. 1. Unholiness, upon his Scheme, is infused into our Nature: But he saith, *God cannot infuse any Degree of Unholiness into the Nature of his Creatures*, p. 163. 12.

INDEED *R. R.* OWNS, p. 369. 17. That it is the blessed God that creates or forms fallen Mankind from Day to Day, — yet it is all according to such an original Law of Nature, a Divine Constitution, made for INNOCENT Man, which was holy, just, and good in itself. — 130. 5. Tho' the Soul of Man be created by God himself, without depraved or sinful Qualities in it, yet it never comes into this Body but as part of human Nature, and that not as a Piece of new Workmanship from God's Hand, but as a Part of Mankind, who are propagated from the first Parent, by the continued Power of God's first creating Word, Be fruitful and multiply. — 89. 6. The great God has appointed and continues such a Law of Propagation, whereby Millions of Infants, without any personal Sin or Fault of their own, are brought into Being under these wretched Cir-

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cumstances,

132 R. R's *Sentiments concerning*
circumstances, &c. — 85. 1. Infants come into
this State by that original Law of Creation and
Propagation which a kind and wise Creator ap-
pointed to his INNOCENT Creatures.

Now, so far as I can gather, this Law of Propagation is thus to be understood : Man was to propagate his Offspring in the same moral State in which himself was. This Law was made for *innocent Man*, and upon Supposition of his continuing such ; and would have turn'd out to our Advantage, had he continu'd innocent : For then we should *all* have been propagated innocent, holy, and happy, like Angels, and have continued so to the End of the World. But when Man sinned, tho' the Law was calculated for a State of Innocence, yet God did not think fit to alter his Scheme ; but as it was originally appointed that Man should propagate according to the State he was in, he keeps to this Law, and lets us go on to be born sinful and unhappy, and continues his Curse and Displeasure upon us. And for what Reason ? Because he had kindly and wisely settled this Constitution for innocent Man, and doth not think fit to alter it. Tho' R. R. thinks, (p. 87. in the Note) that the *Justice and Goodness of God cannot be vindicated in MAKING and maintaining such a dreadful Law or Order of Propagation*, without taking in a federal Head and Representative according to a *righteous Constitution.*

Constitution. And further 'tis his Sentiment, That the EXECUTION of this Law of Propagation is inconsistent with the *Holiness* of God; for he affirms positively, That *God's Holiness will not permit him to create Beings with such innate and powerful Principles of Iniquity* as are in our Nature, p. 61. 1. —163. 12. —195. What then is the *righteous Constitution* which brings this Law of Propagation to a Consistency with the Justice, Goodness, and Holiness of God? — It is this, (p. 102.) “ That *Adam* being made our federal Head and Representative, if he continued obedient, all his Posterity should be propagated holy and happy; if he were disobedient, they should be propagated sinful and miserable.” Therefore upon the Constitution of a federal Head, God has established or MADE the Law of Propagation we are examining. But how that Constitution which establishes a Law, the MAKING of which is inconsistent with the Justice and Goodness of God, and the EXECUTING of it inconsistent with his Holiness, can be a *righteous Constitution*, I confess, is quite beyond my Comprehension. I can't see how *any* Constitution can make that true which is false, or right which in itself is wrong. On the contrary, I should think, if *R. R's* Law or Order of Propagation be repugnant to the Goodness, Justice, and Holiness of God, as it certainly is, it must be *much more* so to

establish it by a solemn, publick, and universal Constitution.—But if this Law of Propagation, by which 'tis suppos'd Sin is infus'd into our Nature, be so false and odious that God could neither *make* nor *execute* it, how comes Sin to be infus'd into our Nature? This R. R. tells us (p. 195.) *must be esteemed as a natural Effect or Consequence of Adam's first Sin. Adam introduc'd vicious, sinful, [immoral] Ferments into his own Flesh and Blood, and communicated them to his Posterity. P. 163, 164. The great God, as an offended Governour [offended at us for a Sin we never committed] lets the Course of Nature take its Way, and communicate the natural Effects of one Man's Offence to his Offspring, &c.*—Here R. R. supposes the *Course of Nature* to be a proper, active Cause, which will work, and go on by itself *without God*, if he lets or permits it: whereas the *Course of Nature*, separate from the Agency of God, is no Cause, or *nothing*. If he shall say,—*But God first sets it to work, and then it goes on by itself*—I answer; That the *Course of Nature* should continue itself, or go on to operate by itself, any more than at first produce itself, is absolutely impossible. —But suppose it *goes on* by itself, can it *stop* itself? can it work any otherwise than it doth? Can the *Course of Nature* cease to generate? or can it produce a *holy* instead of a *sinful* Nature if it pleases? No Advocate for Original Sin will affirm this. Therefore, if it is a Cause,

'tis

'tis a passive Cause, which cannot stop, or avoid producing its Effects. And if God sets it to work, and it cannot cease working, nor avoid producing its Effects till God stops it, then all its Effects, in a moral Account however, must be assigned to him who first set it to work. And so our Sinfulness will be chargeable upon God.

IT is very difficult, if not impossible, for the most learned, and ingenious Person to write clearly and consistently upon the Scheme *R. R.* has espoused. However I ask leave to say, That altho' he uses and applies these Principles as freely as if they were the most obvious Principles of Truth and Religion, yet neither in Scripture, nor in the Reason of things, can I find any Foot-steps of them; and therefore to me they seem wholly *imaginary and fictitious*.

BUT to come to the Point. Whoever maintains that a sinful Nature is really transferred or derived from *Adam* to us, cannot possibly avoid running foul upon this Rock, *That God doth not make or create the Nature of every Man that comes into the World*. For seeing this Doctrine represents our Nature as sinful and hateful to God as soon as ever it is made in the Womb, and seeing our Nature as soon as it is made in the Womb can be no otherwise than as the Maker has made it; it

follows necessarily, that God is not the Maker of our Nature in the Womb: For he cannot make a Thing which is *sinful*, because he is infinitely holy; nor would he make a Thing which is *hateful* to him, because by the very Terms he would hate to make such a Thing. Consequently upon those Principles God cannot be the Maker of our Nature.—To say he makes us according to his own *Original Decree*, or *Law of Propagation*, which obliges him to make us in a Manner which he abhors, is really making bad worse: For it is supposing him to be so defective in Wisdom, as, by his own Decree or Law, to lay such a Constraint upon his own Actions that he cannot do what he would, but is continually doing what he would not, what he hates to do, and what he condemns in us, *viz.* making us sinful, when he condemns us for making ourselves sinful: It can't here be said, *That God acting according to this Constitution (which was to take place whether Adam—was innocent or sinful) is not chargeable with particular Events*; because it is suppos'd God establish'd this Constitution, when he knew it *might*, at least, take a very wrong and odious Turn; and after it is suppos'd to have taken that Turn, if he makes us, 'tis he who puts it in Execution.—*But Adam gave it the wrong Turn.*—Ans.—That we should be made sinful is the wrongest Thing in the World. And if God, according to his

his own Constitution, makes us sinful, because *Adam* sinn'd, then it will follow, that God oblig'd himself, in case *Adam* once did wrong, to do the wrongest Thing in the World in every Age, and in the Case of every Man that comes into the World. In case *Adam* made himself wicked, God stood oblig'd by his own Law and Constitution to make us all wicked. Which is infinitely absurd. Again; to say that God creates the Substance of our Nature, but the depraved and sinful Qualities, the *vicious Ferments*, which are in it are communicated to us from *Adam*. This also is absurd. For those Qualities must be communicated by some Power, or Virtue continued from *Adam* to this Day. And if so, then it must be a Power superior to God's Power; for while he is making his Work, this Power or Virtue communicates such Qualities to it as God hates, and doth not like should be in it: (for if God loves and likes our Sinfulness, then he can't be displeas'd at it, or it is all one as if he should himself immediately cause our Sinfulness.) Therefore this Power or Virtue is superior to the Power of God, for it produces Effects in his Work while he is making it, which he dislikes and abhors. The *Will* of an Agent may indeed be contrary to, and oppose the *Will* of God, commanding *Duty*: But in this case *Will* is not concern'd, neither the Will of the Parents, nor of the Child conceived, nor of
 God:

God : But it is a mere *Power* or *Virtue* derived from *Adam* which, according to the Scheme we are examining, produces *Qualities* in our Nature which God would not have to be there ; a *Power* which makes God make what he hates, and consequently 'tis a *Power* superior to God's ; and then in our *Formation* God is but an *Under-workman*, or, which is here the same Thing, *no Workman at all*.

THUS in every Point of View, the Doctrine of *Original Sin* contradicts this Fundamental Article of all Religion, *That God is the Maker of every Man that comes into the World*, in Opposition to the strongest Evidence of Scripture, which expressly, clearly and fully affirms, not that God made *Mankind*, after an unintelligible Way of speaking, when he first came out of the Hands of his Maker ; but that God makes in the Womb the Nature of every single Man that comes into the World, as really and immediately, as truly and properly as he made the first Man, *Adam*.

JOB x. 2. *I will say unto God, v. 8. Thine hands have MADE ME, and fashioned me, together round about ; yet thou dost destroy me. Remember, I beseech thee, thou hast made me as the clay, and wilt thou bring me into dust again ? Hast thou not poured me out as milk,*
and

and cruddled me like cheese? Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh, and hast fenced me with bones and sinews. Thou hast granted me life and favour, or, with me thou hast made life and mercy, and thy visitation has preserved my spirit.—xxx. 15. Did not he that made ME, [the Master] in the womb, make HIM, [the Servant?] and did not one fashion us in the womb? —xxxiii. 4. The spirit of God hath made me, and the BREATH of the Almighty hath given me life.—Psal. cxix. 73. Thy hands have made me and fashioned me.—cxxxix. 13—17. For thou hast possessed my reins, thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvellous are thy works, and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance yet being unperfect, and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. Eccles. xii. 1. Remember thy CREATOR in the days of thy youth. Isai. lvii. 16. The spirit should fail before me, and the SOULS which I have made. Jer. xxxviii. 16. As the Lord liveth who made us this SOUL.

THUS it stands clear to the meanest Capacity, and beyond all Controversy, that God (not the COURSE OF NATURE, which, consider'd

sider'd apart from the Agency of God, is nothing, or no Cause at all; but GOD the Original of all Being, and the only Cause of all natural Effects) makes, forms, fashions, creates all Men, and every individual Man in the Womb, both *Soul* and *Body*, as certainly, really, truly, and immediately as he made *Adam*: For our Creation and Formation by God in the Womb is affirmed and described more *clearly*, *largely*, and *particularly* than the Creation of *Adam* is. As truly as God made *Adam* of the Dust of the Earth, and breathed Life into him, so truly and immediately he makes us of the earthly Substance of our Parents Bodies, and breathes Life into us; and every Man comes out of the Hands of God, as much and as properly as *Adam* did.

AND if God creates the Nature of every Man in the Womb, he must create it with all the Properties and Qualities which belong to that Nature as it is *then*, and *so* made. For 'tis impossible God should make our Nature, and yet not make the Qualities which it has when made; because this would be at the same time to make it what it *is* and what it *is not*. No Substance can be made without some Qualities and Properties belonging to it. And it must necessarily, so soon as it is made, have those Qualities which the Maker gives it, and no other: For should it, in the very Instant it is made, and as it comes out of his Hands,

Our original Qualities cannot be sinful. 141

Hands, have any other, then it would at the same time both *be* and *not be* what he has made it.

AND if God creates the Nature of every individual Person in the Womb with all its Properties and Qualities, then whatever those Properties and Qualities are, whether bodily Infirmities, or any particular Passions, Appetites, Principles, Propensities, Dispositions, &c. such Qualities must necessarily be the *Will* and *Work* of God, and such as he in his infinite Wisdom judges fit and expedient to belong to the Nature of every Individual. For out of his Hands alone the Nature of every Man in the World doth, and must necessarily come attended with those Qualities which God gives it, and no other.

CONSEQUENTLY those Passions, Appetites, Propensities, &c. cannot be *sinful* in us; because they are, and can be no other than the Will and Work of God in us. If there are *Ferments* in our *Flesh* and *Blood*, or any Principles and Seeds in any Part of our Constitution, as soon as formed in the Womb, those Ferments cannot be *vicious*, nor the *Ferments of Spite and Envy* as they are *then* and *there* in our Nature; nor can those Principles be *Principles of Iniquity*, nor those Seeds the *Seeds of Sin*, as *then* planted in our Constitution, because they are all *then* and *there* formed,

ed, infus'd, and planted by the Hand of our good and holy Creator. They are indeed such Passions, Propensities, Appetites, Ferments, &c. as *may* be viciously and sinfully apply'd ; but they cannot be vicious and sinful *in themselves*, nor as originally belonging to our Constitution. Because as they are originally in our Constitution, they *can* be no other than the Workmanship of God ; and moreover there is not one of 'em that can be nam'd, but may be apply'd to virtuous as well as vicious Purposes.

BUT if Divines will say, that such Passions, Appetites, Propensities are *sinful*, and render us the Objects of God's Wrath and Displeasure ; they should consider, 'tis infinitely absurd, and highly dishonourable to God to suppose he is displeased at us, and regards us as the Objects of his Wrath for what he himself has infused into our Nature. For it is evident beyond all Contradiction, That, if those Passions and Propensities are sinful, the Sinfulness of them is not in any Equity or Justice to be charged upon me, or upon my Nature ; nor in any fair or upright dealing can I be under the Wrath or Displeasure of God for them, unless that can be sinful or deserving of Wrath in me, which is neither caused, advised, nor consented to by me, or unless I can deserve God's Wrath and Displeasure, because I was
over-

over-powered when I could not possibly resist: or unless it be displeasing to God for NO POWER to be overcome by his own ALMIGHTY POWER. This Argument will also hold good with regard to any other Power, or Virtue which may, tho' absurdly, be supposed to give us our natural Qualities, &c. For in this case they would not be *sinful* in us; because infus'd into us by a Power under which we were altogether *passive*, and to which we had *no* Power to oppose. In both Cases Sinfulness will be NATURAL, that is to say, NECESSARY and unavoidable to us; and if so, then no Sinfulness with regard to us; for nothing can be sinful in me which I can no ways avoid, help or hinder.

NOR will the Distinction of *natural* and *moral* Impotency in the least weaken the Force of this Argument. For 'tis plain what Divines here call a *moral*, is a *natural* Impotency; for the supposed sinful Propensities are, according to them, implanted *originally* in our *Nature*, and they tell us expressly our *Nature* is *originally* sinful. The Impotency therefore is *natural*; and consequently with respect to us *necessary*: or if you please, 'tis a *natural moral* Impotency, which is a Contradiction. For if it be *natural* it can't be *moral*; and if it be *moral* it can't be *natural*.

FURTHER;

FURTHER ; if Divines will say, That our Nature is so corrupted that we are UTTERLY *indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all spiritual good, and WHOLLY and continually inclined to all evil* ; and that from this natural Cause all our actual Transgressions proceed, (which is the true Doctrine of *Original Sin*, otherwise what means the Doctrine of the *New Nature*, and of *special, efficacious, irresistible Grace* to produce it?) or if our actual Transgressions are the *natural Effects* of *Adam's Sin*, as *R. R.* has describ'd them to be, p. 83, 109. then our actual Transgressions are the natural Effects of a natural Cause, and if *natural*, (or so far as *natural*) they must be *necessary* and *unavoidable*, and so far no Transgressions at all. This Conclusion is absolutely unavoidable, *so far* as any Man affirms the Sins of Men proceed from a corrupt Nature. For from a Nature in its Formation, and from the Womb, as it is so corrupt, no Sin can possibly proceed.

FROM all this I would gladly persuade myself *R. R.* will see there is no solid Ground for affirming that a *sinful* Nature may be propagated, that our Nature is *sinful* from the Birth, or that the Propensities which belong to it are *sinful*. They cannot be *sinful*, because they are the Work of God ; or whose Work soever they are, with regard to us they
are

are *necessary* and *unavoidable*, and upon that Account too cannot be *sinful*. Indeed it is manifest to the common Sense of all Mankind, that nothing in our Constitution is sinful till it is sinfully apply'd, either in the Thought and Intent of the Heart, or in some outward Acts. Hunger and Thirst are Appetites belonging to our Nature, but are not sinful till we suffer them to become irregular, and misapply them to Gluttony and Drunkenness. Tho' even then the Fault is not in the Appetite, but in the Person who suffers it to become excessive. Here the *Vindicator* will ask, (p. 110.) But *how comes it to pass that our Appetites and Passions are now so irregular and strong, as that not one Person has resisted them, so as to keep himself pure and innocent?* Answ. How far any Man resists, or has resisted his Appetites, so as to keep or not keep himself pure and innocent, is a Case in which I am no Judge. However if the *Vindicator* will tell the World, *How it came to pass that Adam's Appetites and Passions were so irregular and strong that he did not resist them so as to keep himself pure and innocent,* when upon the *Vindicator's* own Principles he was far more able than we to have resisted them; I also will tell him, *How it comes to pass, that his Posterity do not resist them.* Sin doth not alter its Nature by being general; and therefore how far soever it spreads, must come upon all and every Man just as it

came upon *Adam*, not necessarily and unavoidably, but by their own Choice and Compliance with Temptation. See *Jam. i. 13 — 16.* with Mr. *Benson's* Comment, especially on the 14th Verse.

IN short, the great, the wise and good God gives every Man what particular Passions and Appetites, and in what degree he thinks fit, and adjusts every Man's Trial as to Kind and Circumstances no doubt in perfect Equity and Goodness. He, with his own Hand measures to every Man his Capacities, Talents, Means, and Opportunities. We are born neither righteous nor sinful ; but capable of being either, as we improve or neglect the Goodness of God, who sends every Man into the World under his Blessing ; endows every Man with that Sense of Truth and Falshood, Right and Wrong, which we call *Conscience*, to be an intimate Monitor and Guide at all times : He affords every Man sufficient Light to know *his* Duty, and has set before him many Motives to perform it ; he allows every Man the Benefit of Repentance and Pardon if he transgresses ; and at the last Day will in perfect Equity judge every Man according to his particular Case and Situation in Life. Thus God has made every one of us a Present of a Rational Being, the noblest and most invaluable Gift, upon the most reasonable and beneficent Terms, and for the highest

highest and most glorious End, viz. that being cultivated and seasoned with the Habits of Virtue in our present State of Probation, it may be exalted to immortal Honour and Glory in the future World. And this Gift we should highly prize, thankfully accept from the kind and bountiful Donor, and instead of finding Fault with it, and his Dispensations, should magnify his Goodness, and apply ourselves vigourously to improve our Being, and to comply with the Discipline he has prescribed, in hopes of the Glory he has promised; being persuaded, that *the Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works*; and that if we fail of attaining the Perfections and Happiness of the future World, it will one Day be made to appear before Angels and Men to be *our own very great Fault*, and not the Fault of our Nature, or the munificent Donor of it, the FATHER of our Spirits, to whom be Glory and Honour for ever. *Amen.*

S E C T. VIII.

Of Original Righteousness.

ORIGINAL *Righteousness* is reckon'd one great Pillar of *Original Sin*, and is described to be, That moral Rectitude in which *Adam* was created. *His Reason was*

clear, and Sense, Appetite, and Passion, were subject to it, his Judgment uncorrupted, his Will had an inward, constant, superior Bias, Bent and Propensity to Holiness and Virtue : He had an inward Inclination to please and honour God, supreme Love to his Creator, a Zeal and Desire to serve him, a holy Fear of offending him, with a Readiness to do his Will. R. R. p. 4, 5, 6, 106. These Principles or Image of God were created with Adam. The Meaning is not, that Man was created with such Powers as rendered him capable of acquiring Righteousness and Holiness ; but he was *made* in this Image of God ; an Inclination or Propensity to Holiness was *concreated* with him, was wrought into his Nature when it was produc'd, and *belong'd* to it, I suppose, like a natural Faculty or Instinct. Now this *Original Righteousness* stands thus in the Scheme of *Original Sin*. When Adam sinned he lost this concreated moral Rectitude, I suppose, just as if he had lost some natural Power ; for Instance, the Faculty of Sight, &c. consequently the Nature of all his Posterity comes into the World, like his, destitute of this Image of God, as if we had been born blind in Consequence of Adam's losing his Sight. And not only so, but we are also morally corrupt : For whereas he had a natural Propensity to Holiness, our Nature not only labours under a mere Privation of that Propensity, but, I know not how, has contracted

contracted a natural Propensity to Wickedness and Sin ; and we are not only not made in the Image of God, but we are made in Iniquity and Sin. This is the Use made of *Original Righteousness* by the Advocates of *Original Sin*. It is not to be consider'd as a mere adventitious Quality, which is acquired by the right Application of a Man's natural Powers ; but it must be suppos'd to be *natural to Adam, wrought into his Nature*. Otherwise, when he sinned, his Nature might lose nothing but his *own* Innocence, and, consequently, our Nature in him might lose nothing at all, and so the Doctrine of *Original Sin* would fall to the Ground. Thus the whole Scheme of *Original Sin* has a necessary Dependance upon *Original Righteousness*. The Proofs brought to support it are no more than the four following ; viz. *Gen. i. 27.* (which is sufficiently confronted by *Gen. ix. 6.*) *Rom. ii. 14, 15.* (which is spoken not of *Adam*, but of the Heathen, the most corrupt Part of his Posterity.) *Col. iii. 10. Ephes. iv. 24. Eccles. vii. 29.* These Texts I have endeavour'd to set in a true Light, *Scrip. Doc. p. 174—179.* But the three last may, perhaps, require a little further Explication.

COL. iii. 9, 10. Lie not one to another, seeing that you have, by your christian profession, put off the old man with his deeds. And have put on the new man, which is renew'd in

ledge after the image of him that created him. Ephes. iv. 22, 23, 24. *That ye put off concerning, or with respect to, the former conversation the old man which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts. And be renew'd in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

UPON a closer Inspection, tho' here the *old and new Man* have respect to, yet I think they do not signify, a *Conversation*, or Course of Life. For the *old Man*, Col. iii. 9. is distinguish'd from *his Deeds*, which are considered, not as the *old Man* himself, but as something belonging to him. And Ephes. iv. 24. the *former conversation* is not the *old man* himself, but one particular Respect in which he is considered.

1. THAT the *new Man* included two Sorts of People, viz. believing *Jews* and *Gentiles*; and was *created* (Eph. ii. 15.) when *Christ abolished in his flesh the enmity*, or that which separated the *Jews* and *Gentiles* — *for to make, or CREATE (ΚΤΙΣΗ) in himself of twain, (i. e. of believing Jews and Gentiles) one NEW MAN.*

2. THAT the Apostle tells the *Colossian* Christians, (Chap. iii. 8.) that NOW, (*i. e.* after they had embraced Christianity) they
were

were oblig'd to *put off anger*, &c. and exhorts them *not to lie to one another*, ver. 9. and ver. 12. *to put on bowels of mercy*, &c. That is to say, he exhorts them to admit the Christian Spirit in their Hearts, and to practise Christian Duties in their Lives, as the *elect of God, holy, and beloved*, for this Reason, (ver. 9, 10.) seeing they had *put off the old man*, and had *put on the new*. Which shews the NEW MAN was something they might have put on, and yet be defective in the Christian Temper and Conversation. Otherwise, how could he exhort them to be good *Christians* after they had *put off the old*, and *put on the new Man*. Here he considers the putting off the old and putting on the new Man, as a CHRISTIAN PRIVILEGE, OR PROFESSION.

3. IN *Ephes.* iv. 22, 24. he considers the one and the other as a CHRISTIAN DUTY. *That ye put off*, &c. *That ye put on*, &c. The *Ephesians* as well as *Colossians* had, by *Profession*, put off the old, and put on the new Man; and therefore were obliged to do it *effectually*, by renouncing the Spirit, Deeds, and Conversation of the one, by being renewed in their Minds, and by practising the Virtues of the other. This different Way of considering the putting off the old, and putting on the new Man, will be easily apprehended by those who understand such Places as 1 *Cor.* v. 7. —vi. 8, 9, 10, 11. 2 *Cor.* vi. 1.

4. THE *putting on* the *new Man* in either of the fore-mentioned Senses, is one Thing, and the *creating* of him is another. He must first be *created*, as the Apostle supposes he was, before he could be put on. The *creating* of him is *God's Work*; for God created him, *Col.* iii. x. The *putting* him on is our *Profession* or *Duty*, which we are exhorted to perform, or make good, and therefore must be the Choice of our Minds, and the Business of our Lives. God *created* the *new Man* when he erected the Gospel Dispensation, *Eph.* ii. 15, 20, 21, 22. we *put* him on in *Profession* when we embrace the Faith of the Gospel; we *put* him on in *Truth*, and *effectually*, when we put off *Anger*, *Lying*, *Stealing*, &c. and being renew'd in the Spirit of our Mind, put on *Bowels of Mercies*, *Kindness*, *Truth*, *honest Industry*, and every *Christian Virtue* and *Duty*. Read *Col.* iii. 1, to the End; and *Ephes.* iv. 17, to the End of the Epistle.

5. THE *old Man* and the *new*, and the *new Man's* being renew'd and created, and the renewing of the *Ephesians*, do all manifestly refer not to our Fall in *Adam*, nor to any Corruption of Nature derived from him, but to their *Gentile State*, and wicked Course of Life, from which they were lately converted to Christianity. *EPHES.* ii. 11. *Wherefore remember that ye being in time passed GENTILES*

Col. iii. 9, 10. Eph. iv. 22, &c. 153
in the flesh, &c. —12. That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, &c. —13. But now in Christ, ye—are made nigh, &c. —14. For he is our peace, who has made both, Jews and Gentiles, one. —15. Having abolished the enmity, for to create in himself of twain one new Man. EPHES. iv. 17. This I say—that ye henceforth, in your Christian State, walk not as other Gentiles walk, &c. —18. Having the understanding darkened, &c. —19. Who being past feeling, work all uncleanness, &c. —20. But ye have not so learned Christ. —21. If so be that ye have heard him, the Gospel, and have been taught by him, —22. That ye put off concerning the former conversation, the old Man, &c. —23. And be renew'd in the spirit of your mind; —24. And that ye put on the new Man, &c.—25. Wherefore put away lying, and speak the truth, &c. COL. iii. 7, 8, 9. In the which Instances of Wickedness ye also walked sometime, when ye lived in them. But now, when you have renounc'd Heathenism, and embrac'd the Faith of the Gospel, you also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, &c. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old Man with his deeds, and have put on the new, which is renew'd in knowledge. These three are all the Places in the New Testament where the new Man is mentioned.

AND

AND not only here, but in all other Places of Scripture, *Renewing* has Relation not to our Fall in *Adam*, but to a vicious Course of Life; except one Place, viz. 2 Cor. iv. 16. *Though our outward man perish, yet the inward is renew'd, [refresh'd, repair'd] day by day.* There are but two Places more in all the New Testament where this Word is us'd; namely, Rom. xii. 2. *And be not conform'd to [the Wickedness of] this world, but be ye transform'd by the renewing of your mind.*—Tit. iii. 3. *We ourselves also were sometime foolish, disobedient, &c. ver. 4. but after that the kindness of God appeared—ver. 5. he saved us by—the renewing of the Holy Ghost.*

FROM all this I apprehend we may gather, that the *Old Man* relates to the *Gentile State*, and that the *New Man* is either the *Christian State*, or the *Christian Church, Body, or Society*. And as God spake in his holiness, Psal. lx. 6. *afflicted David in faithfulness,—cxix. 75. called our Lord in righteousness, Isai. xlii. 6. so he created the NEW MAN, i. e. erected and established the Gospel-State, or Church, in Righteousness and true Holiness, after his own Image.* In Conformity to his own holy and righteous Nature he constituted the Gospel Church with a View to promote Righteousness and true Holiness among Men. For we, the whole Body of Christians, *are God's work-*

workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God ordained, when he laid the Scheme of the Gospel, that we should walk in them, Ephes. ii. 10. He has called us with an holy calling, 2 Tim. i. 9. As he who has called us is holy, we are bound to be holy in all manner of conversation. The Gospel is a Scheme formed and fitted by a holy God to promote Virtue and Happiness.

WHOEVER pleases soberly to consider these things, I am persuaded will see no Ground in these Texts to conclude, That Righteousness or Holiness was *concreated* with *Adam*, or *wrought into his Nature*. For neither in them nor in the Context is there one Word about *Adam*; much less in this, or *any other Part of Scripture*, is it affirmed, or so much as intimated, that *Adam* was created in Righteousness or Holiness. Between *Adam* and the *new Man* there is in these Verses neither Comparison nor Opposition. The *new Man* is not *fallen Man* restor'd to his primitive Temper; for the *new Man* is not any Thing created in our Hearts, nor doth what is said of him relate to *personal, internal* Holiness, otherwise than as a *Means* or *Motive*. Evidently what relates to *personal, internal* Holiness (and consequently to the matter in Debate) is the PUTTING ON the *new Man*, which being consider'd by the Apostle as *our Duty*, which he exhorts *us* to perform, gives

no manner of Countenance or support to the Doctrine of *Original Righteousness*.

HERE give me leave to say, I can't but think Divines have thrown the Scriptures, and the Doctrines of Christianity into no small Degree of Darknes and Perplexity, by understanding these Texts of a supposed Corruption of Nature derived from *Adam*, which speak of that Corruption wherewith Mankind, especially the *Gentiles*, had corrupted themselves.

ECCLES. vii. 29.—*God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.*—The Word *upright* in our Language, when apply'd to a Person, generally, if not always, connotes a character of Virtue. An *upright man* is a Man of Integrity or a *righteous man*. But the Hebrew word *jaskar*, which we render *upright*, doth not generally signify a moral Character. For 'tis apply'd to various Things not capable of moral Action. *A right Way*, or *Path*, 1 Sam. vi. 12. 2 Chron. xxxi. 20. Isai. xl. 3. —xlv. 2. Ezra viii. 21. Psal. cvii. 7, &c. *Right judgments*, Neh. ix. 13. *Right words*, Job. vi. 25. *Wine moves itself right*, Prov. xxiii. 31. *Straight or right feet, wings*, Ezek. i. 7, 23. and to sundry other Things. And to Persons, or moral Agents, it is not apply'd in one uniform Sense. *Judg. iv. 3. Then his Father —said, Is there never a woman*

*a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, —that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Sampson said, Get her for me, for she pleases me well. Heb. She is right in my eyes. Here right doth not refer to her religious Character, but to the Agreeableness of her Person to Sampson. 2 Kings x. 3. Look out the best and meetest [Heb. rightest] of your master's sons, and set him on the throne, and fight for your Master's house. Here right refers to regal Abilities. —Ver. 15. He [Jehu] saluted Jehonadab, and said unto him, Is thy heart right, as my heart is with thy heart? Here it relates to Sincerity of Friendship. —Hence it appears that *jaskar*, right, doth not always imply *Uprightness* or *Righteousness*. For it is frequently apply'd to Things not at all capable of moral *Righteousness*. And when apply'd to moral Agents, it may be understood, not absolutely, in the most extensive Sense, but partially and relatively. For as the way in which God led the *Israelites* in the wilderness (*Psal. cvii. 7.*) was not the *right Way*, or the shortest, and readiest Road from *Egypt* to *Canaan*; but *right* only with respect to the Counsel of the Divine Wisdom; so *Sampson's* young *Woman* was *right* not with regard to her Religious Character, but his Affections; and some one of *Abab's* Sons might be right as to his regal Capacity, but in no other Respect; and *Jehu's* Heart was right in his Friendship to *Jehonadab*,*

nadab, but not wholly with regard to God : For 2 *Kings* x. 29, 31. *He departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, and took no heed to walk in the law of the Lord God of Israel.* This makes it evident, That it may be said, *God hath made Man right*, (for it may, and I think ought to be so translated) and yet thereby may not be denoted his being *right* in the highest and most perfect Sense, or his being actually righteous : But only his being *right* with regard to his being made with those Powers, and favoured with those Means and Encouragements by a proper Use of which he may become *righteous*, or *right* in the best and most absolute Sense in which a moral Agent can be *right*.

AND that Man's being *made right* in the Text before us is to be understood only of his having those Powers and Advantages which are proper to enable and induce him to be *righteous* or *holy*, seems to me manifest from this further Consideration ; That MAN here is to be understood *collectively*, not of *Adam* only, but of all Mankind. 'Tis *Haadam* in the Original ; and the following are all the Places in Scripture where it is used. Which Places whoever pleases to examine, will find it commonly signifies indefinitely a *Man*, any *Man*, every *Man*, *Men*, and is but apply'd in two or three Cases to a single Person.

MAN.

MAN. *Gen.* i. 27. —ii. 7, 8, 15, 16, 18, 22, 22, 25. —iii. 12, 22, 24. —iv. 1. —vi. 5, 6. (*destroy*) 7. —vii. 21. —viii. 21, 21. —(*band of*) (*life of*) ix. 5, 5. —(*man's blood, made be*) vi. 6. *Exod.* ix. 9, 19, 22. —xxxiii. 20. *Lev.* v. 4. —vi. 3. —xviii. 5. *Numb.* xviii. 15. —xix. 13. —xxxi. 47. *Deut.* v. 24. —viii. 3, 3. —xx. 19. *Josh.* xi. 14. —xiv. 15. *Jud.* xvi. 7, 11, 17. 1 *Sam.* xvi. 7, 7. 2 *Sam.* vii. 19. (*any*) 1 *Kings* viii. 38. 1 *Chron.* xvii. 17. 2 *Chron.* vi. 29. —xxxii. 19. *Psal.* civ. 14. (*of*) *Prov.* xxvii. 19, 20. *Eccles.* ii. 12. —iii. 11, 13, 19, 21, 22. —v. 19. —vi. 7. —vii. 14, 29. —viii. 6, 9, 17, 17. —ix. 1, 12. —x. 14. —xi. 8. —xii. 5, 13. *Isai.* ii. 20, 22. *Jer.* iv. 25. —vii. 20. —xxi. 6. —xxx. 30. *Ezek.* iv. 12, 15. —xx. 11, 13, 21. *Jon.* iii. 7, 8. *Zeph.* i. 3. *Zeck.* viii. 10. ADAM. *Gen.* ii. 19, 19, 20, 21, 23. —iii. 8, 9, 20. MEN. *Gen.* vi. 1, 2, (*of*) 4. —xi. 5. *Lev.* xxvii. 29. *Numb.* v. 6. —xii. 3. (*all*) —xvi. 29, 32. 1 *Sam.* xxvi. 19. 1 *Kings* viii. 39. 2 *Chron.* vi. 18, 30. *Jcb* vii. 20. *Psal.* cxvi. 11. —cxlv. 12. *Eccles.* i. 13. —ii. 3, (*sons of*) 8. —iii. 10, 18, 19. —vi. 1. —vii. 2. —viii. 11. —ix. 3, 12. *Isai.* vi. 12. *Jer.* ix. 22. —xxxiii. 5. —xlvii. 2. *Ezek.* xxxviii. 20. *Hag.* i. 11. *Zeck.* viii. 10. PERSONS. *Numb.* xxxi. 28, 30, 46.

IT is observable the Word is used in the Book of *Ecclesiastes* thirty times, besides the Text under Consideration, and always in the general, indefinite Sense ; which Sense is here further established by the Particle *they* in the latter Part of the Sentence. *God hath made MAN upright, but THEY have sought out many inventions.* This evidently shews he is speaking of Mankind in general. So Chap. ix. 1. *No MAN knows either love, or hatred, by all that is before THEM.* And *Job xxxii. 8. But there is a spirit in MAN: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth THEM understanding.* No one can reasonably doubt but in such places *Man* signifies *all Men*. Therefore this Text will prove too much for the Advocates of *Original Righteousness*: For if by *jasbar*, right, which we render *upright*, be meant *righteous* and *holy*, then will it follow, that God has made all Mankind righteous and holy as well as *Adam*: For the Text evidently speaks of all Mankind. But there's no necessity of straining the Sense of *jasbar* so far, seeing it is sufficiently clear'd if we say, *God has made Man*, or *Mankind*, *right*; has given them rational Faculties, and Means sufficient to know their Duty, and Motives sufficient to induce them to perform it.

AND

AND indeed this *Righteousness* is all that the Nature of Things will bear. For to say, that God not only endow'd *Adam* with a Capacity of being righteous, but, moreover, that Righteousness and true Holiness were *created* with him, or *wrought* into his Nature at the same Time he was made, is to affirm a Contradiction, or what is inconsistent with the very Nature of Righteousness. Such a Righteousness would have been produced in him without his Knowledge and Consent, and so would have been no Righteousness at all. For 'tis obvious to the common Sense of all Mankind, that whatever is wrought in my Nature without my Knowledge and Consent, cannot possibly be either Sin or Righteousness in me; because it is not what I chuse, it is no Act or Deed of mine, but introduc'd into my Nature whether I will or not, and consequently I can neither be commended or condemn'd, rewarded or punished for it. It is a mere natural Instinct, of the same kind with the Industry of the Bee, or the Fierceness of the Lion. Righteousness is right Action. But *Adam* could not act, either in *willing* or *doing* right, before he was created. Therefore he must be created, he must exist, and use his intellectual Powers before he could be righteous. The *Vindicator* thinks otherwise, and tells us, (p. 95.) That *according to this way of Reasoning, Christ could not*

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be holy at the Time of his Birth. Ans. But our Lord did exist before he *was made Flesh and dwelt among us.* — Nay, saith he, God could not be righteous and holy from Eternity, because [according to my way of reasoning] he must exist before he was righteous and holy. Ans. My Reasoning would hold good even with respect to God, were it true that he ever did begin to exist. But neither the Holiness nor the Existence of God could be prior to each other; because God *always existed* in the highest Degree of moral Perfection, and therefore always was holy.

RIGHTEOUSNESS must be our own Choice and Act, otherwise why doth the Scripture *every where* exhort us to be holy and righteous? 1 *John* iii. 7. *He that doth righteousness is righteous.* And where doth the Scripture speak one Word of a Righteousness *concreated* with us, *infus'd* or *wrought* into our Nature? or of *true* Holiness, which is neither the Subject of our Thought nor the Object of our Choice? Doth the Scripture ever say, a Person may gain the Habits of Righteousness without thinking of it, or concerning himself about it? We all know the Scripture gives a very different Account of Things. — But (*Vindic.* p. 122.) cannot God, by his almighty Power, immediately infuse into us, or concreate with us, any good Habits which Men can be supposed to gain by their
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own Industry or Exercise? Cannot God make us as good as we can make ourselves? I answer; That for which we alone are accountable, for which we alone are rewardable or punishable; that which in its own Nature we must chuse and act, and which cannot be at all, if it is not our own Choice, and the Effect of our own Industry and Exercise; no Being whatever can absolutely do for us. God may give Capacities for doing it, and may greatly assist and encourage in doing it; but the Thing is not done at all, unless we do it. The Thing cannot exist unless we chuse it, because our chusing to do what is right and good is the very Thing which is to exist: But our chusing what is good, can neither be the Act of any other, nor the Effect of Force; for Force destroys Choice. —But God infused various Gifts into the Apostles — therefore those Gifts, as such, were no Virtue or Righteousness in them, but a mere Faculty or Power. Their chusing to use them for the Glory of God was Virtue, but the infused Faculty was no Virtue.

BUT Original Righteousness was a Propensity, Bent, Biass, Inclination to Righteousness, or a Principle and Habit of Righteousness. And might not such a Propensity, &c. be wrought into Adam's Nature? —But where do the Scriptures say a Word of all this? A Habit is gained by repeated Acts. And

164 *Adam free to sin in the highest degree.*

therefore I do not see how it can properly be apply'd to *Original Righteousness*. A natural Inclination, Propensity, or Instinct, may, I conceive, be a Principle or Spring of Action ; but in itself can neither be *righteous*, nor *Righteousness*. For such Propensity or Principle either is, or is not under the Government of my Will or Choice. If *not* ; then it can no more be *Righteousness*, than the Palpitation of my Heart, or the Working of my Lungs. If this Propensity be under the Government and Controul of my Will, then it can be righteous only so far as apply'd to righteous Action in Heart or Life. For who will say, That any Propensity or Principle in *Adam* would have been holy, or Holiness, tho' never by him apply'd to any holy Purpose ? Therefore 'tis not the Propensity which is *Righteousness*, but my right Application of it. And if the Application of the Propensity is subject to my Will, then 'tis so far from being Righteousness in itself, that it may become the Occasion of Sin and Guilt, if it is neglected and abus'd.

AND that this was *Adam's* Case, whatever his Propensities were, the Advocates of *Original Righteousness* are constrain'd to confess. For tho' they represent a Propensity to Holiness as *wrought into his Nature*, and consequently as a natural Quality of his Mind ; and tho' this Propensity is suppos'd to be a natural

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Adam *free to sin in the highest degree.* 165
 ral Inclination or Desire to retain and preserve
 itself, (for he was naturally *bent and bias'd*
to the supreme Love of God, and to obey all his
Will with Readiness and Zeal:) yet it is not
 only allow'd that *Adam* had a full Liberty to
 retain or lose this Propensity, (for he was *made*
with a perfect Freedom of Will, and with a
Power to chuse Evil as well as Good; to abide
in the Favour and Image of his Maker, or to
fall from his Maker's Image and Favour, ac-
cording as he should use his Liberty well or ill.
R. R. p. 6, 96.) but 'tis also allow'd, that he
 actually did, by his own Choice, lose the
 Image of his Maker, or his Propensity to Ho-
 liness. For he transgress'd the Law of God,
 and (as these Gentlemen represent the Case)
 transgress'd in a Degree of Aggravation be-
 yond any of the subsequent Iniquities of Man-
 kind. Some say he transgress'd the same Day
 he was created, some a few Days after ; but
 all agree he was at full Liberty to have trans-
 gress'd at any time, sooner or later, as he should
 chuse.

AND thus *Original Righteousness* in *Adam*
 turns out full as bad as *Original Sin* in his Po-
 sterity. For 'tis evident, that were all *Adam's*
 Posterity born in the same Image of God in
 which *Adam* is suppos'd to have been created,
 yet the World might be just as wicked as it
 is: For the Image and Righteousness in which
Adam is suppos'd to have been created, were

so consistent with his falling into Sin, that none of his Posterity can be more at Liberty to sin than he was; nor can they, as these Gentlemen tell us, sin more heinously than he did.

I MIGHT add, that, upon the Scheme we are examining, *Adam's* Inclination to Sin (for he could not sin without a sinful Inclination) must be so strong in him, as to overcome a natural in-bred Propensity to Holiness; and of so malignant a Nature, as to expel, at once and totally, that Principle, corrupt his whole Constitution, and afterwards diffuse its dire Contagion to all his Posterity. Consequently, the supposed *Original Righteousness* in *Adam* must be consistent with, or capable of admitting a sinful Propensity or Principle *vastly stronger, and more malignant than ever was or can be in any of his Posterity*, who never did, nor can sin against such Resistance; and whose sinful Propensities produce no such dreadful and extensive Effects.

LASTLY; 'Tis observable, that among his Posterity we find several illustrious Instances of Virtue and Piety, even in Opposition to strong Temptations: But *Adam*, for any Thing we can learn from Scripture, yielded to the first Temptation; nor can I find so much as one Instance of his Virtue or Holiness expressly mentioned in all his History;
and

and in other Parts of Scripture he is no where otherwise characterized than as a *Transgressor*, as *disobedient*, and a *Sinner*; *Job* xxxi. 33. *Hof.* vi. 7. *Rom.* v. 12—19. *1 Cor.* xv. 22. *1 Tim.* ii. 14. Not that I think we can hence conclude, that *Adam*, upon the whole, was not a Man of Piety and Virtue: But this we may conclude, That no Instance of his Virtue or Holiness is to be found in Revelation, from whence we can infer any extraordinary Principle of Righteousness and Holiness in him above his Posterity, even before he transgress'd.

FROM all this it appears to me, that the common Scheme of *Original Righteousness*, as well as that of *Original Sin*, is without any Foundation in Scripture, or the Reason and Nature of Things.

The CONCLUSION.

AND now I appeal to any one who carefully peruses this Piece, and my *Scripture Doctrine*, &c. if I have not some Ground to declare, 'Tis my Persuasion, that the Christian Religion, which was very early and grievously corrupted by dreaming, ignorant, superstitious Monks, too conceited to be satisfied with plain Gospel, has long remain'd in that deplorable State, and is still not a little mis-

understood, even in some main Articles, by those who profess themselves the truest Protestants, and most perfect Reformers: Nor can it be reduc'd to its original Purity any otherwise, than by a free, diligent, and impartial Study of the Scriptures. *There* we have its true and genuine Principles certainly defin'd and explain'd, if we chuse to be at the Pains to find them. And surely we should think no Pains too great to discover and purchase a Treasure so invaluable. Nor should it be forgotten, that, however we may be assisted, this is a Work no other Person can do for us, but we must every one of us do it for ourselves to the best of our Power.

AND that we may be rightly dispos'd for the Study of the Scriptures, we all know we should clear our Breasts of every Anti-Christian Principle. —In vain we sweat in mowing down the Stubble of gross *Popery*, while the Roots of it live and are cherish'd in our own Hearts. We should love the TRUTH: should be free to see the Truth, and upright and steady in professing it. —How many very different and contrary religious Sentiments are to be found in the World, and even in our own Country here, is obvious to every ones Observation. But contrary Opinions cannot all be true. For the TRUTH is but one; nor is it to be moulded or defined by our Prejudices, Passions, Fancies, or temporal Interests.

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It can neither be establish'd, nor suppress'd as Nations, Synods, Assemblies, Congregations, or Parties can agree. It is not what this or the other Sect espouses; what this or the other Society approves; what the Wit of this or the other great Divine has invented; nor what best suits our secular Advantages. The TRUTH is one and the same absolutely, from Everlasting to Everlasting unchangeable. And 'tis the TRUTH (not human Decisions or Schemes, nor our own Guesſes, Conceits, or Suppositions, but 'tis the TRUTH) we must sincerely endeavour to *embrace*, and *stand by*, as ever we hope to be saved.

AND as the SCRIPTURES alone teach the pure and native Truth of the *Christian* Religion, we should make Conscience of keeping close to them. For 'tis only *ſo* we can see the Glory, and feel the Power of the Gospel. Only *ſo* can we be able Ministers of the New Testament, duly qualify'd to teach the solid Principles of true Religion. But if instead of Scripture we take a *human System* for our Guide, we may wander deplorably in the Mazes of Error, like a Man who has lost his Way in the Dark, and is led by a false Light he knows not whither. Neglecting the Scriptures, we can never have a clear, solid conviction of the Truth of the Gospel; and, consequently, can never be *ſtrong in the Grace of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt*,
nor

nor happy in that noble Spirit and Life, that divine Temper, that Goodness, and Love, that Comfort, Joy, and Courage which only a just Knowledge of Gospel-Truth can inspire; shining in our Minds like the heavenly and extensive Light of the Sun, which smiles and diffuses a kind and genial Warmth over all the Globe, and gives a bright and pleasant View of all its various Objects.

DOUBTLESS it is our Duty, and highest Wisdom, to make the Scriptures our principal Study; and as we profess them the infallible and precise Standard of *Christian* Doctrine, to use them *in fact* as such. Would Ministers come to this Resolution, and People encourage it; would both Ministers and People, according to their several Abilities, diligently read and search the Scriptures, with a Mind desirous to see neither more nor less than what God has revealed, the *Truth* would shine out, and *Love* flourish.

WE should not cheat ourselves by first supposing a Point is in Scripture, and then labouring to make it out as we are able; but should first see whether it be there or not. Let us not dare to forge an *Hypothesis*, or embrace a popular Opinion, and then endeavour to varnish it with Scripture-Colours. The unwarrantable Liberties others may have taken should not embolden us. How preposterous

posterior and inconsistent is it, to profess high Regards to the Scriptures, throw them behind our Backs, indulge our own Conjectures, rove beyond the Bounds of *all* Understanding into the Region of Fiction and Chimeras, there form and settle our Schemes, and then turn to the Scriptures? *This* is one principal Foundation-Stone of P O P E R Y. Thus Revelation is obscured, and not human REASON, but human VANITY and IGNORANCE substituted in the Place of it. *Thus* the Christian Religion is made various and uncertain, and the Heads and Hearts of Professors are endlessly divided about it. *Thus* the spotless Doctrine of *Christ* (so full of Light and Love, good Hope and Joy, inspiring the most extensive Benevolence, and animating to the noblest Action,) is polluted, its Power weakened, the Attention of his Disciples drawn off from the plain and grand Articles of Faith, and their Thoughts busied, and their Consciences perplex'd with something, perhaps, much worse than mere Trifles. *Thus* many a fine Genius, able Head, and pious Turn of Mind, has been rendered not only useless, but greatly hurtful to Religion; which, had it been employ'd in the impartial Study of the Scripture, would have been a burning and shining Light. *Thus* the greatest Part of a Man's Life, and his closest Studies, may be unhappily spent in framing Suppositions, and inventing Colours, as he may imagine, to explain

plain religious Principles, but, *in truth*, to cover and support Error and odious Absurdity. And *thus* Divines will embarrass themselves endlessly with Difficulties and Darkenesses of their own creating. And justly will *they* suffer. But surely great Pity 'tis the Truth should be involv'd in Clouds, and so many honest Minds presented with wrong Views of the glorious Gospel of our Salvation.

THE religious Principles of the *Jewish* Priests, Scribes, and Interpreters of the Law, as describ'd and censur'd by our LORD, and yet the high Opinion they had of themselves for Knowledge and Sanctity, is a Picture which should be always before all our Eyes; and the following Texts should be deeply engraven upon all our Hearts: *Deut.* iv. 2. —xii. 32. *Prov.* xxx. 5, 6. *Isai.* v. 20, 21. —xxix. 13, 14. *Mat.* xv. 14, 15. *Luke* xi. 52. *John* xii. 49, 50. *1 Cor.* iii. 10 —18. *2 Cor.* ii. 17. —iv. 2. *Gal.* i. 8, 9, *Rev.* xxi. 8, 27. —xxii. 15.

To profess to preach in the Name of *Christ* the Doctrine of Life and Salvation, which he brought from Heaven and sealed with his own Blood, and yet to take what I preach upon Trust from fallible Hands, and never seriously to study Revelation to know what is that only true Doctrine which *Christ* taught, seems to me, in our Circumstances, a capital

capital Iniquity, and one of the greatest Crimes for which any of the Sons of *Adam* is accountable to the most high God, What! have the Word of God in our Hands, believe it the only Rule of Faith and Salvation, and pretend to preach what it contains, and yet never search or examine it, or refuse to submit to its Decisions? How dare I, diverted by other Studies or Affairs, trusting to my own Conceits, or the supposed Wisdom of other Men, bias'd by Prejudices, courting popular Favour, or consulting my secular Interests, teach that for saving Truth, which, were I careful to look into the Scriptures, I might see is dangerous Error; not only not the Truth as it is in Jesus, but inconsistent with it? When Numbers from time to time hear me preach, under a Notion that I am explaining the Oracles of God, how great is my Fault, if in Fact it be true, that in all my Life I never set myself seriously and impartially to read the Greek Testament *so much as* ONCE over, that in the clearest Light I might see what is the true and perfect Will of God therein revealed? How can I answer this to my own Conscience? Can I say I have faithfully used all the Means in my Power to gain the exact and compleat Knowledge of the Doctrine of Salvation, when the most perfect Account of it has lain by me Year after Year, unread, unstudied? Must I not consider myself as being possibly a *public Deceiver*
in

*in Matters of everlasting Consequence ? how shall I answer it to the Lord Jesus Christ ? how shall I be able to hold up my Face before him in the great and terrible Day ? As to the grand and awful Decision of that Day, what does it signify how learned and ingenious I am in Philosophy, or any curious Arts and Sciences, if really I understand not the true Principles of the Christian Religion ? What matters it how many other Volumes I have read, if I have not perhaps *so much as ONCE* in all my Life closely perused that one small Book, which above all others contains *by far the most excellent Knowledge*, and which above all others I, as a Minister, and a Christian, am under the strongest Obligations from God and Man to study *constantly*, to digest *thoroughly*, and to work *deeply* both into my Head and Heart ?*

TRUE, in the faithful Study of the Scriptures a Man may expect Discouragement if he doth not find in them the peculiar Schemes and Notions of this or the other Party, which yet cannot possibly all of them be the Sense of Scripture : He may be despised, slander'd, maligned, represented as dangerous and odious, deserted by Friends, and cut short with regard to a temporal Subsistence. But did not our Lord himself, and the holy Prophets and Apostles suffer in the same manner ? What avails the Friendship of Man, or any present

present Enjoyments, in comparison with the Favour of God? Better, infinitely better, to fare meanly, to be reproach'd and forsaken of all Men, than to be unfaithful, and at last condemn'd by the righteous Judgment of God. Let us do our Duty, and leave Happiness and Enjoyment to the Governour of the Universe, who certainly will take care of and reward all his Servants small and great. *Be thou faithful unto Death, and I will give thee a CROWN OF LIFE, Rev. ii. 10.* Any Sufferings in this transitory World will be abundantly compensated by that happy Sentence; *Well done, good and faithful Servant, —enter thou into the Joy of thy Lord.*

BUT, notwithstanding the Mistakes and Infirmities of my Fellow-Christians, I may never suspend the Exercise of Love to them, remembering how the most high God, and the ever-blessed Son of God have loved us all. Tho' it is my Purpose in God's Strength to profess and stand by the Truth so far as I know it, without regard to the Fear or Favour of Man; yet in fomenting Envy, Strife, and Divisions, among *Christ's* Disciples I will have no Hand. 'Tis detestable Work, hateful to God, and directly contrary to the Precepts and Spirit of the Gospel. The Gospel teaches me to be humble, patient, and peaceable; to pity and pray for the Weak and Misguided; to desire and in all Methods of true
Wisdom

Wisdom to labour for the Salvation of Men, looking daily for the Coming of our LORD, and by Faith and Prayer daily seeking for Directions and Assistance to God the only Fountain of Light, *who giveth Wisdom to the Wise, and Knowledge to them that have Understanding, —who knoweth what is in the Darknes, and the Light dwelleth with him.* To him be everlasting Glory and Honour, thro' *Jesus Christ* our Lord. *Amen.*

F I N I S.





A N
A P P E N D I X
W I T H
A D D E N D A

To complete
The FIRST EDITION
O F T H E
SCRIPTURE-DOCTRINE, &c.



THE following Objection being sent by a Friend after my late Book was publish'd, I cannot at present find a more convenient Situation for it than this here. But its proper Place is *Scrip. Doc.* p. 192. before OBJECT. VI.

OBJECT. VI. " MIGHT not *Adam's*
" Posterity sin in him as their ROOT; just as
" *Levi* is said to pay Tithes in *Abraham*?
" *Heb. vii. 9.* The Branch, as such, must
" so far partake of the Nature of the Root,
N " as

“ as that if the Root be morally corrupt the
 “ Branches must be so too. *Rom. xi. 16.*”

As this Objection is grounded upon the two quoted Texts, both must be distinctly considered.

HEB. vii. 9. *And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, paid tithes in, or by Abraham. For he was yet in the loins of his father when Melchizedeck met him.*

HERE observe, the Apostle puts in a Cayeat against our understanding *Levi's* paying of Tithes in a strict and proper Sense. AS I MAY SO SAY, *Levi pay'd tithes in Abraham.* He owns it was a harsh, bold Figure, and designedly guards against its being understood in the literal Sense. And good Reason why: for all the Nation of the *Jews* were in the Loins of *Abraham* as well as the Tribe of *Levi*, Ver. 5. Now if *Levi* in the strict and literal Sense paid Tithes in *Abraham*, for this reason, because he was *in his Loins*; then it must be true, that all who were in *Abraham's* Loins did, for that Reason, whatever he did while they were in his Loins; and moreover, in the Sense of the Objector, must partake in all the Guilt and Righteousness of his Actions. But all, and every Man that ever was in the *Jewish* Nation was in the Loins of *Abraham* before
Isaac

Isaac was born, and therefore every Man in the *Jewish* Nation must act all the Faith and Obedience which *Abraham* acted in the Space of at least Twenty-five Years, from the Time he was called till *Isaac* was born, and must have just as great a Quantity of Faith and Obedience as he had. A Sentiment too absurd for any one to admit. And yet this must necessarily follow, if it be true in the strict and literal Sense, that *Levi* paid Tithes in *Abraham* because he was in his Loins; and if this be a Proof that all Mankind sinned in *Adam* because they were in his Loins.

BUT neither the Case of *Abraham* and *Levi*, nor the Apostle's Argument grounded upon it, have any manner of Relation to the partaking in the Guilt of Actions. For it is evident beyond all Controversy, that the Apostle is discoursing concerning HONOUR; or which was GREATER, *Melchizedeck* or *Abraham*. And he proves *Melchizedeck* was the greater Man, because *he received tithes of Abraham and blessed him*, Ver. 6, 7. And without all Controversy, saith he, the LESSER is blessed of the GREATER. The same Thing also may be concluded from the paying and receiving of Tithes. For the Apostle evidently supposes, that he who pays is the LESSER, and he who receives is the GREATER Person. Therefore *Levi*, or the

Jewish Priests, though they received Tithes of the *Jews*, yet were of an Order inferior to the Priesthood of *Melchizedeck*; for this Reason, because the *Jewish* Priests, to use a bold figurative Way of speaking, paid Tithes in *Abraham* to *Melchizedeck*; for they were in his Loins at that Time when he met *Melchizedeck*. This is the Apostle's Subject and Argument. He is arguing not concerning Guilt or Righteousness, the moral Pravity or Purity of Nature; but the Superiority and Inferiority of *Persons*. The paying of Tithes was a Badge of Inferiority. The whole *Jewish* Nation, and the Tribe of *Levi* in particular, was included in *Abraham's* Person, from whom by the Promise and Purpose of God they were to descend: consequently, as *Abraham* paid Tithes to *Melchizedeck* while *Levi* was in his Loins; and as the Tribe of *Levi* was never supposed, nor had any just Pretence, to be superior to the venerable Patriarch, the Father and Glory of the whole Nation; it follows, that *Levi*, or the Levitical Priests, were inferior to *Melchizedeck*. When therefore the Apostle says, *Levi* paid Tithes in *Abraham*, he means no more than that *Abraham's* paying of Tithes as a Badge of Inferiority affected *Levi*, then in his Loins, so far and no farther, than as it leaves us to infer, that he also was inferior to *Melchizedeck* as well as *Abraham*.

ROM. xi. 16.—*If the root be holy so are the branches.* “Hence it may be infer’d, That “if the Root be morally corrupt, the Branches “must be so too.” And the Inference would be just, if the Apostle were in this Place speaking of moral Holiness, or of Holiness as it is a Quality or Principle in the Mind. But he is speaking of the external State of the *Jews*, considered not *personally*, but *collectively* in a Body. He is arguing, that notwithstanding their present Unbelief, God had such a Regard to them on account of the original Election of their Ancestors, *Abraham, Isaac and Jacob*, that he will certainly bring them again into the Church. And among other Things suggests this Thought, *Ver. 16. If the root be holy so are the branches.* As if he had said, If *Abraham, Isaac and Jacob*, the Root and Original of the *Jewish* Nation, stood in a peculiar Relation to God, the Branches which are sprung from them in the Line of the holy Seed are to be considered as still continuing in some special Relation to God.

The Holiness therefore here spoken of is no other than that external, relative Holiness which is frequently attributed to the whole Nation of the *Jews*, as they were God’s peculiar People. *Ezra ix. 2. The holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of other lands.*

Dan. viii. 24. *He shall prosper and destroy the holy people.*—xii. 7.—*Shall scatter the power of the holy people*; meaning the *Jews*. And so in several other Places. In the same external, relative Sense, I suppose, the Children of Christian Parents are said to be *holy*, 1 Cor. vii. 14.

AND that the Apostle means this kind of Holiness in the Text under Consideration is very evident. For whereas the *Root* in the Sense both of the Text and of the Objection, signifies the Ancestors of the *Jewish* Nation, *Abraham*, *Isaac* and *Jacob*, and the Branches their Posterity the *Jews*; if we understand the Term *holy*, of internal, moral Holiness, then it will follow, that all the *Jewish* Nation in all Ages, have derived a sanctify'd Nature from their pious Ancestors, and have all and every one of them always been, and shall always be as pious, virtuous, godly and righteous persons as *Abraham*, *Isaac* and *Jacob* were: Which every Body knows is far from being true.

Page 40. Line 24. *For* [standeth plainly upon this double Foot] *read*, [evidently stands upon these two Principles;]

Page 41. Line 12. VER. 13. From the Time th^t *Adam* sinned, &c.] This Paragraph and that which follows it, as far as to
[VI. The

[VI. The Consequences of *Adam's Sin* upon us, &c.] I would have alter'd as follows.

VER. 13. IF we turn our Thoughts to the long Period of Time before the Law was given by *Moses*, it must indeed be allow'd that *Sin was then in the World*; that is, Men were guilty of various Sorts of Sin: but it is also true, that *Sin is not imputed when there is no Law*, or *μὴ ὥστε νόμος*, when LAW is not in being. LAW, threatening Sin with Death, is the only Constitution which subjects Men to Death for the Sins they commit. Therefore the Sins of Mankind were not *imputed*, were not tax'd with the Forfeiture of Life, or charg'd upon them as capital, as subjecting them to Death, because the LAW, which subjects the Transgressor to Death, was not then in Being. For it was abrogated upon *Adam's Transgression*, and was not again in force till reviv'd by *Moses* at Mount *Sinai*.

VER. 14. But for all that *Death reigned* all the long Space from *Adam* to *Moses*, even over them who had not sinned after the similitude of *Adam's transgression*. That is, had not sinned against Law, making Death the Penalty of their Sin, as *Adam* did. For during that Period Mankind were not under LAW, but under GRACE. And therefore, tho' Sin in its several Branches was, during that Space, committed by Mankind, yet they

were not subjected to Death for their Transgressions. It remains then that Death was universally inflicted upon Mankind in Consequence of *Adam's* one Transgression*.

VI. THE

* OBSERVE, the Apostle here uses *LAW* (as he frequently doth) in a peculiar, emphatical Sense, namely, as denoting a *Rule of Duty with the Penalty of Death annexed as due to the Transgressor from God*. And according to him 'tis *LAW* which slays the Sinner, *1 Cor. xv. 56. The Sting of Death is Sin, and the Strength of Sin is the Law*. The *Law* is the Force by which Sin, the *Sting of Death*, is plung'd into the Sinner's Vital: *For (Rom. vii. 8.) without LAW Sin is dead*, and unable to slay the Sinner. See this more fully explain'd *Supplem. SECT. VI. § VI.* This therefore, upon further Thoughts, I take to be the Force of the Apostle's Argument, *viz.* 'Tho' Men were Sinners, during the Period between *Adam* and *Moses*, yet they were not subjected to Death, or made mortal by their Transgressions; because *LAW*, the only Constitution which subjects the Transgressor to Death, was not then in Being. But yet Men through that long Tract were all subject to Death; therefore they must be included in the Sentence, *Gen. iii. 19.* and their Mortality must be the Consequence of *Adam's* one Offence. — *Enoch's* Exemption from Death, and the Case of the *Antediluvians* and *Sodomites*, who died for their own Sins, are no Objection against the Apostle's Argument. Because extraordinary Interpositions come under no Rule but the Will of God. The Law given to *Noah*, *Gen. ix. 6. Who so sheds Man's Blood, by Man shall his Blood be shed*, makes Death the Penalty of Murder; but it is given as a Rule for Magistrates in executing Justice, and not as a Declaration of the Penalty of Sin to be inflicted by God himself. Nor was it enacted till the Year of the World 1657. And as for those few who might be put to Death upon that Law, or those greater Numbers who perished for their own Sins in the Deluge, and the Overthrow of *Sodom* and *Gomorrhah*, although they died for their own particular

VI. THE Consequences of *Adam's* Sin upon us, and the Consequences of *Christ's* Obedience, &c.

Page 57. Line 13. THAT Men are Subject, &c.] The Paraphrase of this Verse I would have struck out, and this here below set in the Place of it.

13. THAT Men are subject to Death not from their own personal Sins, but from the Sin of *Adam*, I thus prove. Before the Law of *Moses* was given, and therefore while the Law, which threatens Transgression with Death, was not in Being, Men, 'tis true, were guilty of various Sorts of Sin. But those Sins of theirs were not the Reason of their common Mortality: Because, whatever Sin may

13. *For until the law sin was in the world: But sin is not imputed when * law is not in being.*

particular Sins, yet they were not *made mortal* by those Sins. For, according to the Apostle's Argument, had they not committed those Sins they would have dy'd. Every Man is mortal from the Moment he receives Life and Being; and Death passeth upon all Men indifferently (yea upon Infants) without Respect to their Virtues or Vices. Therefore, if a Man by his own Crimes brings Death upon himself, such Death is only an Anticipation of that Death which, in a few Years, he would certainly have died in common with all Mankind; and the Life he forfeits is not immortal Life, but a few Days or Years of that Life which was lost to all Mankind in *ADAM*, and shall be restor'd to all Men in *CHRIST*. See *Locke* upon *Rom. v. 15*.

may deserve, it is not taxed with the Forfeiture of Life, when LAW, or the Constitution which alone subjects the Sinner to Death, is not in Being.

Page 57. Line 31. Instead of [against a Law which appointed Death the Punishment of Sin : Because, for the greatest Part of that Space, there was no such Law in Being.] *read* [against LAW, making Death the Penalty of their Sin : Because, during that Period Mankind were not under LAW.]

Page 105 in the Note Line 15. After [Do ye judge uprightly, O ye Sons of Men?] *add* [See 1 Sam. xxvi. 19.]

*Page 152. Line 29.—*And Idolatry in which the *Gentiles* liv'd, [add] *Adam* himself was taken in the Snare of the Devil, not because he was a *bond Slave to him by Nature*, nor on account of the Transgression of any other Person, but thro' his own Fault. And in the very same Way his Posterity have fallen into the same deadly Snare, not thro' *Adam's* Sin, but their own.

BUT observe, the Clause, &c.

Page 153. Line 9. For [recover themselves] *read* [awake.]

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Page 153. Line 10. For [being caught to Life] read [being revived or brought to Life again.]

— Line 13. His [God's] Will,] add [i. e. turned from the Power of Satan unto God, Acts xxvi. 18.

— Line 15. This I think is the genuine, &c.] Strike out this Paragraph with the Note as far as, [And with the same Force and] and instead thereof insert what follows.

THIS, I think is the genuine Sense of the Text. For the Word *ζωοῖν* signifies to *revive, bring to Life*; and is here elegantly oppos'd to the Devil's ensnaring Souls to Destruction, as the Act of God's Grace, and the Ministry of the Gospel, rescuing them out of his Hands (that is, bringing them out of Error and Wickedness) in order to restore them to Life and Salvation, And with the same Force and Elegance, &c.

Page 154. Line 11.—Where the Word is used in the New Testament*.

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* To confirm this Sense of the Text, let it be observed, That as *ΑΥΤΟΣ*, *he, him, his*, always relates to a Person *of, to, or by* whom something is said or done, it frequently belongs to a remote Antecedent, without any Confusion. Because the Action or Thing spoken or done plainly determine that *HE* or *HIM* do not belong to the Person last mentioned, but to one that stands before

Page 154. Line 13, 14. *Dele*, [This Observation, in a great Measure, destroyeth the Strefs of the Proof.] *And begin the Paragraph with those Words* [BUT in no Sense, &c.]

PART

before it, and sometimes at a great Distance. Take a few Instances out of many. *Mark*. iii. 2. *Watched him*; not the *Man*, but the *Son of Man*, Chap. ii. 28. *Luke* ii. 22. — *brought him to Jerusalem*, not *Moses*, nor *the Angel*, but *the Child*, Ver. 21. *Luke* iv. 29. — *thrust him out of the City*, not *Naaman*, or *Eliseus*, Ver. 27. nor *Elias*, Ver. 26. but *Joseph's Son*, Ver. 22. or *Jesus*, Ver. 14. *Luke* xxiii. 15. — *is done unto him*; not *Herod*, but *this Man*, Ver. 14. Hence it is plain that when two or more Persons are mentioned in the same Paragraph, the Nature of the Action must determine to which of them the Particles *he* nor *him* do belong. Accordingly in *2 Tim.* ii. 26. The Nature of the Action express'd by *εζωπνυεσθαι* shews that *him* belongs not to the *Devil*, but to the *Servant of the Lord*. For *ζωπνυω* always has immediate Relation to *Life* in opposition to *Death*. It signifies to *refocillate*, *revive* one that is fainting away, to *restore*, to *bring to Life*, (*Iliad*. E. 698.) in which Sense it answers well to *αναμψωσιν*. And tho' it is here only applied to *Hunting*, (and therefore is not well rendered *taken captive* in our Translation) yet both with regard to *War* and *Hunting* it always signifies to *take alive*, or *save alive*, in opposition to *slaying* and *destroying* when taken, however Persons may happen afterwards to be used. But this will not suit the *Devil* and his *Snare*. For the *Devil* is a *Murderer*, *John* viii. 44. *The roaring lion who walks about seeking whom he may devour*, *1 Pet.* v. 8. He is *Abaddon*, *Apolylon*, a *Destroyer*, *Rev.* ix. 11. And they, who are in his Snare, are *dead in Trespasses and Sins*, *Eph.* ii. 1. *Col.* ii. 13. in a lethargic Sleep, *Eph.* v. 14. *Natural brute Beasts*,
made

PART. III. in the Title Page. *Dele* [*Mal.*
ii. 10. *Have we not ALL one Father? Hath
not one God created us?*]

Page 176. Line 28. *Dele* [*signifieth*] *and
read* [*has reference to.*]

Page 177. Line 3. *Dele* [*signifieth*] *and
read* [*has reference to.*]

—— Line 4. *Dele* [*signifieth*] *and read*
[*has reference to.*]

—— Line 13, 14. *Dele* [*Character and
Course of Life*] *and read* [*state,*]

—— Line 16. — Thus createth him*.

Page

*made by their Ignorance, Lust, Wickedness, to be taken
and destroyed.* The Devil's Snare has no Relation to
LIFE, but to DEATH and DESTRUCTION. On
the other Hand; the Design of the Ministry is to preach
the Word of LIFE in order to *revive* those who are
dead in sin, and bring them to the Obedience of God.
Besides, *αὐτῶ* and *ἐκείνῶ* generally refer to two dif-
ferent Antecedents, as *hic* and *ille* in *Latin*. Therefore
the Sense of the Verse stands rightly thus: *That being
revived by the Servant of the Lord, they may awake out
of the Snare of the Devil, unto the Obedience of the
Will of God.*

But observe, should my Criticism fail, yet the Ar-
gument, that the Persons spoken of were not taken in
the *Snare of the Devil*, nor *lead captive* by him for
Adam's Sin, but by their own Wickedness, will, for all
that, stand good.

* See this further explain'd *Supplem.* § 8.

Page 177. Line 16. [God himself is righteous, &c.] *strike out this and the rest of the Paragraph, as far as to* [But doth this prove]

— *Line 25. For* [probably the Apostle alludes] *read* [-- possibly the Apostle may allude.]

Page 185. Line 7.—meant by it] *add*, in any Consistency with Sense or Truth.

Page 192. Line 20. Here take in the Appendix in the *Supplement*, as OBJECT. VI. and so that which is now the VIth will be the VIIth.

Page 194. Line 9. Read, But the Apostle never was without the Law; for he was born, &c.

Page 207. Line 6. Instead of, [for there was then no Law, &c.] *read* [For the Law, subjecting the Transgressors to Death, was not then in Being: But when the Commandment, &c.]

Page 207. In the Note—*where there is no Law*; [add] *or, when Law is not in Being.*

Page 214. Line 5. Dele, [by past] *read* [former.]

Page 239. Line 3, 4. Dele [or of God, is
no

no other than] *and read* [in the most perfect Sense, is]

Page 239. Strike out the Note at the Bottom of the Page.

Page 251. Line 15.—Humiliation and Repentance*.

Page 251. Line 16. *After* [Repentance? No.] *add* [cheerful Obedience? No.]

* We are told that serious Thoughts, on the Points relating to *Original Sin*, are necessary to our being truly humble and poor in Spirit.—But our Lord has taught us Humility and Poverty of Spirit upon the best and truest Principles, without taking any the least Notice of *Original Sin*, Mat. v. 3.—xi. 29.—xviii. 4. Nor do the Apostles, when inculcating Humility, ever say a Word about *natural Corruption*, or *Original Sin*. Hence I conclude, that this Humility, Humiliation, or Poverty of Spirit, resulting from serious Thoughts upon *Original Sin*, is of the false and superstitious Kind. Humility has no necessary connection with any Sin. For our Lord, *who knew no Sin*, was the most perfect example of Humility.

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